# COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 1 No. 4 January 1954


## CHRISTMAS COUNTS

by John L. Chapin

This year's counts have many interesting features. Included is a report from Ft. Morgan where Edward Hellstern, aged 84, counted 22 species and one from Weldona where our artist, Howard Rollin on horseback and at home counted 16 species, including one exclusive, the Lapland Longspur. Our only Western Slope report, from Durango, includes Western Bluebird and Cinnamon Teal. Idaho Springs, probably the highest altitude count in the nation, missed both of last year's features, White-tailed Ptarmigan and Three-toed Woodpecker, but added Canyon Wren, Bohemian Waxwing, all three species of Rosy Finches, and White-throated Sparrow. The Eastern Slope counts were generally good. Two counts were made at Lyons. One on the 21st was not in the count period but is included here for general interest. Longmont, along with all Eastern Slope localities except Denver, increased its count over last year and included the Swamp Sparrow. Boulder managed to better last year's mark without the help of one of last year's stars, Al Knorr, and included some very unusual species: Western Grebe, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and White-throated Sparrow. The Denver-Jefferson County Count missed last year's species mark by one. Four Whistling Swans, which were present at Marston Lake from Thanksgiving until Christmas, were missed, as was the Horned Lark. Highlights were: Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Winter Wren, Water Pipit, and Swamp Sparrow. Colorado Springs made what is probably the best relative showing of all. By increasing the total party hours from last year's 34½ to 84¼, they increased their total from 51 to 76 species, including Swainson's Hawk, Gray Jay, Plain Titmouse, Common Bush-tit, Purple Grackle, Common Redpoll, Lesser Goldfinch, Lark Bunting, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow (all documented).

The total number of species reported by the ten counts is 114. Several species were reported in sufficiently large numbers that they may represent the highest of those species to be reported this year by Audubon Field Notes. Among these are: Ferruginous Hawk, 5, Colorado Springs; Steller's Jay, 306, Colo. Spgs.; American Magpie, 711, Denver; Clark's Nutcracker, 45, Idaho Springs; Mountain Chickadee, 134, Colo. Spgs.; Dipper, 28, Lyons; Canyon Wren, 10, Denver; Townsend's Solitaire, 64, Idaho Spgs.; Cassin's Finch, 32, Longmont; Brown-capped Rosy Finch, 2, Idaho Spgs.; Red Crossbill, 63, Idaho Spgs.; and Gray-headed Junco, 719, Colo. Spgs.

Observers:

Boulder - Douglas, Gordon and Marion Alexander, Dexter Hess, Eleanor and John Hough, William Weber, Olwen Williams.

Colorado Springs - Mrs. T. L. Adams, Mr. & Mrs. G. L. Catlett, Mrs. Lavinia H. Curtis, Mrs. Louise B. daCruz, Stanley Davis, Edna Dessaint, Mrs. K. E. Ewing, Mrs. L. B. Field, Larry Field, Margaret H. Floyd, Capt. & Mrs. D. W. Galvin, Dr. Mary A. Hamilton, Bernhardina Johnson, Mrs. Marjorie B. Leavens, Mrs. Ruth McRoberts, Mrs. Betty Miller, Kent Nelson, Mrs. Ruth Nelson, Paul W. Nesbit, Mrs. Lillian Noble, Sgt. & Mrs. Eugene Parish, Mary Shirer, Mr. & Mrs. George Sinton, Mrs. F. V. Slifer, Mahlon Speers, Dr. Robt. M. Stabler, Mrs. B. E. Sutton, Mrs. Helen B. Thurlow, James H. Turner(Compiler), Pearl V. Turner, Mrs. H. J. Wagner, Mr. & Mrs. H. J. Weberbauer.(Aiken Ornithological Society).

Denver - Sally Allen, Arthur Bennett, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Bonnema, John Chapin, Mrs. M. E. Crow, Buryl Cummins, John & Margaret Douglass, David, Gerald, Ruth & Ted DeMent, John Flavin, Robert Glover, James Humphrey, Ferd Kleinschnitz, Beth Lederer, Lucy & Thompson Marsh, Bob and Mary Carol Massonneau, Vera Matthews, Donald McLean, Sadie Morrison, Bess Phelan, Ranson Stone, Donald Thatcher, Harold Webster, Ruth Wheeler.
Durango - J. L. & Marion B. Borden, Dr. R. W. Dawson, Thomas Frizell, Oppie Reames.
Ft. Morgan - Edward Hellstern
Idaho Springs - Arthur Bennett, John Chapin, John Flavin, Robert Glover, David Juergens, Ferd Kleinschnitz, Sadie Morrison, Joe Taylor, Donald Thatcher.
Longmont - Jay Arnold, Mrs. Carl Collister, Mrs. Nina Schultz, Mrs. John Thielen.
Lyons - Hugh Kingery and two others.
Weldona - Howard Rollin.

Summary of Counts:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Boulder | Dec. 26 |
| 2 | Colorado Springs | Jan. 3 |
| 3 | Denver - Jefferson County | Dec. 26 |
| 4 | Durango | Dec. 26 |
| 5 | Fort Morgan | Dec. 28 |
| 6 | Idaho Springs | Jan. 2 |
| 7 | Longmont | Dec. 28 |
| 8 | Lyons | Dec. 21 |
| 9 | Lyons | Dec. 27 |
| 10 | Weldona | Dec. 27 |

| Species | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Western Grebe | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Pied-billed Grebe | | | 4 | | | | | | | |
| Great Blue Heron | | 1 | | 1 | | | | 1 | | |
| Canada Goose | | | 225 | | | | | | | |
| Mallard | 10,000 | 160 | 1553 | 40 | 102 | | 15,000 | 340 | 2 | |
| Gadwall | | 47 | 2 | | | | | | | |
| American Widgeon | 39 | 2 | 23 | | | | | | | |
| Pintail | 108 | | 64 | | | | 2 | | | |
| Green-winged Teal | | 2 | 1 | | | | 100 | | | |
| Cinnamon Teal | | | | 5 | | | | | | |
| Shoveller | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Wood Duck | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Ring-necked Duck | | | 1 | 11 | | | | | | |
| American Golden-eye | | | 20 | 12 | | | 1 | | 2 | |
| Ruddy Duck | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Hooded Merganser | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| American Merganser | 4 | | 6 | 12 | 6 | | 12 | | | |
| Goshawk | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Cooper's Hawk | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 1 | 10 | 5 | 4 | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | |
| Swainson's Hawk | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Rough-legged Hawk | | 6 | 6 | | | | 5 | | | 1 |
| Ferruginous Hawk | | 5 | | | | | | | | |
| Golden Eagle | 2 | 12 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| Bald Eagle | | 2 | | 4 | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Marsh Hawk | 1 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 2 | | 6 | 1 | | 3 |
| Prairie Falcon | | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | |

| Species | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pigeon Hawk | | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Sparrow Hawk | 2 | 5 | 23 | 2 | | | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | 65 | 30 | 173 | | 7 | | 47 | 7 | 28 | 4 |
| American Coot | | 1 | 41 | | | | | | | |
| Killdeer | 13 | 17 | 31 | 1 | | | 4 | 2 | 21 | |
| Wilson's Snipe | 7 | 12 | 21 | | 2 | | 8 | 10 | 5 | |
| Herring Gull | | | 30 | | | | 29 | 52 | 102 | |
| Ring-billed Gull | | | 234 | | 4 | | 130 | | | |
| Mourning Dove | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Horned Owl | | 4 | 4 | | | | | | | |
| Long-eared Owl | | | 4 | | | | | | | |
| Short-eared Owl | | | 2 | | | | 4 | 1 | | |
| Belted Kingfisher | | 9 | 6 | 1 | 1 | | 8 | 5 | 13 | |
| Yellow-shafted Flicker | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Red-shafted Flicker | 42 | 139 | 98 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 64 | 19 | 31 | |
| Lewis's Woodpecker | 7 | | 2 | | | | 7 | 1 | 1 | |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 4 | 18 | 2 | | | 4 | | 5 | 1 | |
| Downy Woodpecker | 3 | 31 | 14 | 2 | | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Horned Lark | | 334 | | | 8 | | 135 | 30 | | 32 |
| Gray Jay | | 7 | | | | 3 | | | | |
| Blue Jay | 1 | | | | 6 | | | | | |
| Steller's Jay | 20 | 306 | 57 | 2 | | 79 | | 15 | 49 | |
| Scrub Jay | | 86 | 13 | 7 | | | 4 | 2 | | |
| American Magpie | 74 | 475 | 711 | 190 | 8 | 23 | 87 | 19 | 118 | 6 |
| Common Raven | | | 9 | 8 | | 9 | | 1 | | |
| American Crow | 36 | 106 | 238 | 8 | | | 545 | 185 | 120 | |
| Pinon Jay | | 48 | | 45 | | | | | | |
| Clark's Nutcracker | | 8 | | | | 45 | | | | |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 18 | 80 | 113 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 25 | 27 | 10 | |
| Mountain Chickadee | 5 | 134 | 80 | | | 111 | | 20 | 69 | |
| Plain Titmouse | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Common Bushtit | | 106 | | | | | | | 17 | |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 1 | 23 | 10 | | | 2 | | | 9 | |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | | 6 | 3 | | 2 | 11 | | | | |
| Pygmy Nuthatch | | 42 | 185 | 1 | | 14 | | 1 | 54 | |
| Brown Creeper | 4 | 22 | 14 | | 2 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 3 | |
| American Dipper | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | | 2 | 7 | 13 | 28 | |
| Winter Wren | | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Long-billed Marsh Wren | | | 4 | | | | 1 | | | |
| Canyon Wren | | 9 | 10 | | | 2 | | 2 | | |
| American Robin | 61 | 44 | 54 | | | 36 | 1 | 17 | 33 | |
| Western Bluebird | | | | 7 | | | | | | |
| Townsend's Solitaire | 7 | 13 | 51 | | | 64 | | 4 | 7 | |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | 4 | 58 | 13 | | | | | 2 | 12 | |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Water Pipit | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Bohemian Waxwing | | | | | | 100 | | | | |
| Cedar Waxwing | | 11 | 19 | 12 | | | | | | |
| Gray Shrike | 5 | 1 | 2 | | | | 2 | 1 | | 1 |
| Loggerhead Shrike | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Common Starling | 262 | 270 | 351 | 25 | 14 | | 1081 | 13 | 7 | |
| House Sparrow | 260 | 1476 | 898 | 225 | 22 | 32 | 368 | 31 | 24 | 6 |
| Western Meadowlark | 45 | 198 | 371 | 8 | 16 | | 256 | 62 | 62 | 12 |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 700 | 300 | 582 | 2 | 500 | | 3295 | 7 | 58 | 500 |
| Rusty Blackbird | 7 | | 2 | | | | | | | |

| Species | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brewer's Blackbird | | 6 | 41 | | | | 38 | | | |
| Purple Grackle | | 9 | | | | | | | | |
| Evening Grosbeak | 5 | 5 | 1 | | | | | 29 | 29 | |
| Cassin's Finch | | 24 | 4 | | | | 32 | 40 | 4 | |
| House Finch | 61 | 481 | 305 | 12 | 6 | | 79 | 7 | 8 | |
| Pine Grosbeak | 17 | | 26 | | | 6 | 18 | | 19 | |
| Gray-crowned Rosy Finch | | | | | | 2 | | 240 | | |
| Black Rosy Finch | | | | | | 4 | | | | |
| Brown-capped Rosy Finch | | | | | | 2 | | | | |
| (Unidentified) Rosy Finches | | | 44 | | | | | | | |
| Common Redpoll | 1 | 5 | | | | | | | | |
| Pine Siskin | 1 | 31 | 43 | 50 | | 1 | 1 | | 8 | |
| American Goldfinch | 37 | 25 | 40 | 70 | | | 5 | 8 | 33 | 6 |
| Lesser Goldfinch | | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Red Crossbill | | | 10 | | | 63 | | 26 | 8 | |
| Spotted Towhee | | 21 | 11 | | | | | | 1 | |
| Lark Bunting | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Vesper Sparrow | | 12 | | | | | | | | |
| White-winged Junco | | 41 | 26 | | | 4 | | 1 | 5 | |
| Slate-colored Junco | 12 | 66 | 25 | | | 10 | 3 | 19 | 11 | |
| Oregon Junco | 92 | 1400 | 1068 | 560 | 27 | 82 | 38 | 155 | 462 | 42 |
| Gray-headed Junco | 34 | 719 | 187 | 115 | | 124 | 1 | 12 | 32 | |
| American Tree Sparrow | 82 | 235 | 370 | 13 | 17 | | 372 | 73 | 120 | 45 |
| Chipping Sparrow | | 11 | | | | | | | | |
| Clay-colored Sparrow | | 5 | | | | | | | | |
| Harris's Sparrow | | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| White-crowned Sparrow | 6 | 79 | 171 | 4 | 50 | | 105 | 11 | 2 | |
| White-throated Sparrow | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Swamp Sparrow | | | 1 | | | | 2 | | | |
| Song Sparrow | 5 | 101 | 134 | 4 | | | 20 | 3 | 2 | |
| Lapland Longspur | | | | | | | | | | 40 |
| Total species | 51 | 76 | 85 | 37 | 22 | 34 | 48 | 47 | 46 | 16 |
| Party hours | 16 | 88¾ | 96 | | | 36 | | | 11 | 10 |
| Parties | 2 | 21 | 11 | | 1 | 4 | | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Observers | 8 | 37 | 30 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 |

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## Pine Grosbeaks

A number of high altitude species have appeared in or near the foothills this winter in large numbers as compared with previous winters. Probably most noticeable is the Pine Grosbeak. Dr. Gordon Alexander reports(Dec. 8) that a small flock of this species visited Boulder "during each of the last three snow storms." The writer heard one or more in Genesee Mountain Park on December 20; saw two on Genesee Mountain and two one mile east of there, all in female plumage, Dec. 26(Christmas Count); and saw one at Genesee Mountain January 9, my only records in that area since four were seen there in November, 1951. This species was found on four Christmas Counts in the plains or foothills: Boulder(17), Denver(26), Longmont(18) and Lyons(19), although none of those four areas reported any a year ago. On the other hand the high altitude count(Idaho Springs) found nearly as many,(6, with high wind) as last year(9) in the summer range of the species.

---D. M. Thatcher

## Review of the Seasons

Following are summaries of some of the more unusual occurrences of species or numbers of birds for the past several months. Some of these have been reported previously with the trip reports and others are included in the Christmas Count report in this issue.

It is planned to make this summary a monthly feature. Your prompt reports of unusual species or numbers (including common species), out-of-season or out-of-habitat occurrences, and dates of nesting, singing or other activities are desired.

(Observations marked * were made on scheduled Club trips. CC - Christmas Count.)

Common Loon - 1 10/25 Marston Lake*
Double-crested Cormorant - 2 11/21 near Morrison*
Whistling Swan - 4 11/26, 12/25 Marston Lake (JWF)
Wood Duck - 1, 12/26 Bowles Lake (CC); 1 1/17 Sloan's Lake, Denver (JD,MD)
Goshawk - 2 imm. 8/9 Deer Creek Park, near Bailey(DMT); 1 11/26 Ken Caryl Ranch(JWF)
1 ad. 11/29 & 1/10 Genesee Mt. Park(DMT); 1 imm. 12/5 Clear Creek*.
Cooper's Hawk - 1 11/26(JWF); 1 12/6 Red Rocks(DMT,JJ)
Osprey - 1 10/25 Marston Lake*
Sandhill Crane - 1 10/3 Barr Lake*; 4 10/1; flocks of 100 to thousands 10/2 to 10/9; large flocks 10/15, 19, 22, 24 Weldona(HR)
Parasitic Jaeger - 1 ad. 10/25 Marston Lake*
Poorwill - 1 9/20 NW Denver(DMT).
Belted Kingfisher - 2 together(unusual) 12/5 Clear Creek*; 1 thru fall & winter, E. of Littleton(RJN)
Wright's Flycatcher - 1 6/30 Genesee Mt. Park(Ponderosa Pine) (RJN, DMT)
Blue Jay - 1 12/26(Boulder CC), 6 12/28 Ft.Morgan(EH), 1 at feeder, Fall & Winter, E. of Littleton(RJN)
Mountain Chickadee - 2 10/31 City Park, Denver(DMT); 1 11/1,22,& 26; 2 12/13 Northwest Denver, always in Blue Spruce(DMT)
Common Bush-tit - several, late November, City Park(JZ, RJN); 17 12/27 Lyons(HK)
American Dipper - unusually high count of 28 12/27 Lyons & vicinity(HK)
Winter Wren - 3 together 12/5 Clear Creek*; 2 12/26 E.of Morrison(CC)
Long-billed Marsh Wren - 3 11/21 near Morrison*; 2 12/5 Clear Creek*.
Sage Thrasher - 1 9/30 Federal Center(DMT); 1 thru October at J. Chapin's, SE of Denv.
Eastern American Robin - 1 about 9/1, NW Denver - conspicuous white tips, outer tail feathers, presumably Eastern subspecies(DMT)
Hermit Thrush - 1 10/7 NW Denver(DMT)
Veery - 1 heard singing 7/5, 7/12 Palmer Lake(DMT)
Eastern Bluebird - 5 10/10 Castlewood Dam Area*
Golden-crowned Kinglet - 3 1/16 Colo. U. Campus, Boulder(JD, MD)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 1 1/16 C. U. Campus, Boulder(JD, MD)
Bohemian Waxwing - 100 1/2 Chicago Creek(JLC, SM)
Cedar Waxwing - "daily visits in small numbers" at feeder, reported 11/12 F.Morgan(EH)
See also Christmas Counts
Common Starling - increasing in NW Denver, 9 at 29th & Perry Sts. 1/6(DMT)
Myrtle Warbler - 1 1/16 C. U. Campus, Boulder(JD,MD)
Audubon's Warbler - 1 12/25 near Sloan's Lake, Denver(DMT); several at feeder, Ft. Morgan in early November(EH)
Ovenbird - summer 1953 "nesting in yard" Ft. Morgan(JS) and 1 heard singing 7/5 & 7/12 in Ponderosa Pine with Scrub Oak understory, Palmer Lake(DMT)
Rusty Blackbird - 2 11/21 near Morrison*; 5 12/5 Clear Creek*; 7 12/26 Boulder(CC); 2 12/26 Bear Creek east of Morrison(CC)
Clay-colored Sparrow - 1 10/10 Castlewood Dam Area*; 5 1/3 Colorado Springs(CC)

Harris's Sparrow - 1 11/21 Morrison*; 1 12/5 ClearCreek*; 2 12/26 Clear Creek east of Golden(CC)
White-throated Sparrow - 1 10/10 Castlewood Dam Area*; 1 11/7 Waterton*; 1 10/25 Red Rocks Park*; 1 10/25 Turkey Creek near Morrison*; 1 12/26 Boulder(CC); 1 1/2 Georgetown(CC)(Had been feeding several days at Mrs. Scudder's feeder); 1 1/3 Colorado Springs(CC)
Swamp Sparrow - 2 11/21 near Morrison; 1 12/26 same(CC); 2 12/28 Longmont(CC); apparently a new bird in Denver Area
Lapland Longspur - flock 11/8 Chapin's, Parker Road; 40 12/27 Weldona(HR)

Contributors: John L. Chapin, John Douglass, Margaret Douglass, John W. Flavin, Edward Hellstern, James Jetensky, Hugh Kingery, Sadie Morrison, Robert J. Niedrach, Howard Rollin, James Scanlon, Donald M. Thatcher, Judith Zucker.

-- D. M. Thatcher

## Bird Notes from Weldona

by Howard Rollin
November 1953

The birds here as a whole had a most successful year and quite a number of young were raised successfully. Horned Larks were moderately successful. One pair of Killdeer succeeded in its nesting and raised the full complement of four. Of late years Killdeer have been quite rare in comparison to their abundance some years ago. Many pairs nested along the creek but this year only the one. Brewer's Sparrows were rare also but raised their young successfully where they did nest. Rock Wrens are coming back again after having almost disappeared from the canyons. No reason for their rarity is apparent. Western Kingbirds and Bullock's Orioles have also been rare the last few years and none nested anywhere here.

The wet spring and summer brought a very prolific growth of weeds, especially Russian thistles and sunflowers. Owing to this growth, Lark Buntings nested here by the thousands and in places where they had never nested before, namely, along the creek and the flats in the canyons. They seemed to be very successful in bringing the young to wing. The Meadowlarks also had a very good year and they, too, were more numerous than in years.

Mourning Doves were not as common as usual but a good many nested, though not many young were noted.

The Blue Grosbeaks were about here in the spring, but of their nesting I am not certain. However, for the last five or six years they have nested here and successfully raised their young. Four or five distinct pairs were noted last year, but this year only two.

The Brown Thrasher nested here for the first time in 41 years and raised at least one young. Mockingbirds had an excellent year. About six pairs nested in the canyons close about and one of those brought two broods to the house.

The Say's Phoebe completed two nestings this year; but last year only one, as all insects were very scarce.

The most interesting thing this fall was the large numbers of Sandhill Cranes passing here and the long duration of their migration. They started the first of October (4 birds) and for the next 8 days flocks of a hundred or more up to the thousands passed; and Oct. 15th, 19th, 22nd and 24th, flocks of various sizes, mostly in the hundreds.

Pink-sided, Shufeldt and Montana Juncoes were here in good numbers and are associated with large numbers of Tree Sparrows.

Jan. 14, 1954

The Juncoes are swarming this year and there are hundreds everywhere; usually just a half a dozen or so winter. Tree Sparrows are numerous and I see flocks of Goldfinches of from six to two or three hundreds. Weeds grew everywhere and the birds are amply supplied with food. Just before this cold spell, the ninth, Juncoes and Tree Sparrows appeared to be moving north, as everywhere I went there were birds all heading in that direction. This cold should head them south again! !

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THANK YOU! ! The Club has received an excellent painting of the Golden Eagle from Howard Rollin, to be added to our collection of his annual contributions. It is hoped that we will be able some day to display these paintings permanently.

Christmas Greetings have been received from Horace G.(Dad) Smith of Denver and (with dues) Miss Maud Ranson, Portland, Oregon.

## Personals

Our Recording Secretary, Phyllis Caswell, has left Denver because of the illness of her mother. Her address is Box 754, Bridgeport, Nebraska.

One of our newest members, Judith Zucker, also was called away by her mother's illness. Her address is 708 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

We hope to have these two members back with us soon.

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CORRECTIONS:- December issue:

Page 2- Note on Am. Magpie in 4th paragraph should be moved to 3rd paragraph.

Page 3- Add to first paragraph, following note on Rails: Bell's Sparrow(Calif) and Sage Sparrow(a Western Slope species) are now combined as Sage Sparrow(with scientific name of Bell's Sparrow).

Page 4- 7th line from bottom: change second column to read:- (Am.) Rough-legged Hawk (no change)
- between 5th & 6th lines from bottom, add:- Golden Eagle/(American) Golden Eagle.

Page 5- line 2: add parenthesis to "Hudsonian" (second column)
After Woodhouse's Jay add:- Am. Magpie/(Am.) Black-billed Magpie*
For Western Crow change second column to (Western) Common Crow*
(Western) Am. Crow - A.F.N.

Page 10- in paragraph beginning "December 5":- Eastern Downy Woodpecker should read "Downy Woodpecker other than Batchelder's. Probably Nelson's Downy, but may have been Northern Downy. (Like Blue Jay; there is no "Eastern" Downy.)

## CALENDAR FOR JANUARY - FEBRUARY

January

24 (Sun.) 7 AM Field trip - upper Cherry Creek - John Flavin, leader - PL5-1744 Speer Blvd. & Downing. Bring lunch. Transportation, 75¢.

*24 (Sun.) 2:30 & 4:30 PM Lecture, "North - Far North with MacMillan"

*25 (Mon.) 6:30 & 8:30 PM by Donald B. MacMillan. Phipps Auditorium

26 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification - John Chapin - Bird Room, Den. Mus. Nat. Hist.

8 PM Regular Meeting. Talk, "Inter-action of Species" and demonstration of special bird camera, by Robert Glover. - Bird Room, Museum.

NOTE:--Please use north (employees') entrance.

*31 (Sun.) 2:30 & 4:30 PM Lecture, "Hong Kong and the Bamboo Curtain"

February by Deane Dickason.

* 1 (Mon.) 6:30 & 8:30 PM Phipps Auditorium

2 (Tues.) 8 PM Free lecture, "Once Upon an Island", by Robert C. Hermes. "Nature on the Screen" series. Phipps Aud., Den, Mus. Nat. Hist. (Den.Mus.Assn)

* 7 (Sun.) 2:30 & 4:30 PM Lecture, "Pakistan", by Hal Linker

* 8 (Mon.) 6:30 & 8:30 PM Phipps Auditorium

13 (Sat.) 1 PM Field trip - Red Rocks and vicinity - Ruth Wheeler (GL-3924) and Sadie Morrison (MA-0840), leaders. W. Colfax & Sheridan. Transp. 50¢

*14 (Sun.) 2:30 & 4:30 PM Lecture, "Mexico", by Curtis Nagel.

*15 (Mon.) 6:30 & 8:30 PM Phipps Auditorium

*21 (Sun.) 2:30 & 4:30 PM Lecture, "Our Arctic Winter", by The Helmericks.

*22 (Mon.) 6:30 & 8:30 PM Phipps Auditorium

23 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification Bird Room

8 PM Regular Meeting Denver Museum of Natural History

28 (Sun.) 7:30 AM Field trip - Genesee Mountain Park - Donald Thatcher, leader - GL-7479. West Colfax and Sheridan. Transportation 50¢

* These film lectures are provided by the Denver Museum Association. All balcony seats and unclaimed downstairs seats are free to the public.

# COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 1 No. 5 February 1954

## Winter Bird Population Studies in Three Mountain Habitats

by Donald M. Thatcher

Field work has been completed on the same three areas in Genesee Mountain Park for which breeding bird population studies were made, as described in the October Colorado Bird Notes. These studies are made as part of the seven-year-old nation-wide project of the National Audubon Society and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the results of which are published annually in the June "Audubon Field Notes." During the previous six years, an average of 25 such studies have been reported, of which an average of 5 are from the Western States. Of the total of 29 Western Studies, all but one(from Oregon in 1949) were made in Colorado.

Of the three areas, two, which have been studied four seasons, are of 20 acres each in the approximately 90-year stands on the north slope of Genesee Mountain at elevations of 7900 to 8200 feet above sea level. One is of nearly pure Lodgepole Pine and the other of Douglas Fir. The third area, for which this was the third season of study, is of nearly pure, all-aged Ponderosa Pine, at elevations of 7700 to 7950 feet.

Requirements for these studies are, briefly: (1) that the habitat be uniform throughout an area and be surrounded by essentially similar habitat; (2) that at least 6 trips be made over the entire area; (3) that, to avoid the possible counting of migrants, trips be made only between December 20 and February 10; and (4) that trips be made only in good weather. As winter birds move about freely, unlike breeding birds, which are more or less territorial, counting must be kept on a statistical basis, the counters trying to determine, as best they can, the number of birds present at any one time on the whole area.

All trips were made by the writer, assisted on one or more trips by the following: Lang Baily, Arthur Bennett, John Chapin, Ferd Kleinschnitz, Leonard Licht, George Sciple, Hazel Thatcher and Otto Wlassak.

The following tables summarize the counts in the three habitats for the three or four years covered by the counts. These tables should furnish a good list of the species and relative numbers of birds occurring in the principal forest types of the higher foothills near Denver. The species are arranged in the order of their abundance, as averaged for the several years of study. The numbers in the columns indicate the average numbers of birds, to the nearest whole number, observed per trip on the study area, followed by the number per 100 acres in parenthesis. A plus(+) indicates an average of less than .5 bird per trip. Continued on page 2).

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The Audubon painting of the Yellow-winged Sparrow or Grasshopper Sparrow recently reproduced on the cover of the Denver Post's Empire Magazine is on display at the State Historical Museum( 14th Street, opposite the Capitol).

## Lodgepole Pine Forest

| Year | 1950 - 51 | 1951 - 52 | 1952 - 53 | 1953 - 54 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. Trips | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Dates | Dec. 24 to Feb. 4 | Dec. 28 to Feb. 10 | Dec. 20 to Feb. 6 | Dec. 20 to Feb. 8 |
| Hours | 6 | 5½ | 5 | 5½ |
| Mountain Chickadee | 4(20) | 2(10) | 7(35) | 4(20) |
| Pygmy Nuthatch | -- | -- | 6(30) | 1(5) |
| Brown Creeper | 2(10) | 1(5) | 2(10) | 1(5) |
| Red Crossbill | -- | 1(5) | -- | 5(25) |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | + | + | 1(5) | 1(5) |
| Pine Siskin | -- | -- | 2(10) | -- |
| Am. Magpie | + | 1(5) | + | -- |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | + | -- | -- | 1(5) |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | 1(5) | -- | -- | -- |
| Pine Grosbeak | -- | -- | -- | 1(5) |
| Gray-headed Junco | -- | -- | -- | 1(5) |
| Hairy Woodpecker | -- | -- | -- | + |
| Am. Crow | -- | -- | + | -- |
| Clark's Nutcracker | + | -- | -- | -- |
| Am. Robin | -- | -- | -- | + |
| Townsend's Solitaire | -- | -- | -- | + |
| Unidentified Juncos | + | -- | -- | -- |
| No. Species 16 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 11 |
| Aver. birds per trip | 7 | 5 | 18 | 15 |
| Birds per 100 acres | 35 | 25 | 90 | 75 |

## Douglas Fir Forest

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mountain Chickadee | 2(10) | 3(15) | 8(40) | 7(35) |
| Pygmy Nuthatch | -- | -- | 8(40) | 1(5) |
| Am. Magpie | 3(15) | 1(5) | 1(5) | 1(5) |
| Brown Creeper | 1(5) | 2(10) | | 2(10) |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | + | 1(5) | 1(5) | 1(5) |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | 1(5) | 1(5) | + | 1(5) |
| Red Crossbill | -- | -- | + | 2(10) |
| Pine Siskin | -- | -- | 2(10) | -- |
| Gray-headed Junco | -- | -- | 2(10) | -- |
| Steller's Jay | + | -- | + | 1(5) |
| Townsend's Solitaire | -- | + | 1(5) | + |
| Hairy Woodpecker | -- | 1(5) | + | -- |
| White-winged Junco | -- | -- | 1(5) | -- |
| Goshawk | -- | -- | -- | + |
| Am. Crow | -- | -- | + | -- |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | + | -- | -- | -- |
| Am. Goldfinch | -- | -- | + | -- |
| Oregon Junco (Pink-sided) | -- | -- | + | -- |
| Unidentified Juncos | -- | -- | -- | + |
| No. Species 18 | 7 | 7 | 16 | 11 |
| Aver. birds per trip | 7 | 9 | 24 | 16 |
| Birds per 100 acres | 35 | 45 | 120 | 80 |

Ponderosa Pine Forest

| Year | 1951 - 52 | 1952 - 53 | 1953 - 54 |
|---|---|---|---|
| No. Trips | 7 | 6 | 6 |
| Dates | Jan. 4 to Feb. 9 | Dec. 26 to Feb. 1 | Dec. 20 to Feb. 7 |
| Hours | 19 | 12 | 14 |
| Pygmy Nuthatch | 21(31) | 19(28) | 45(67) |
| Mountain Chickadee | 9(14) | 8(12) | 12(18) |
| White-winged Junco | 10(15) | --- | 10(15) |
| Cassin's Finch | --- | 6(9) | 1(2) |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 3(4) | 2(3) | 2(3) |
| Steller's Jay | 1(2) | 1(2) | 3(5) |
| Red Crossbill | 4(6) | --- | 1(2) |
| Am. Crow | --- | 1(2) | 2(3) |
| Townsend's Solitaire | 1(2) | 1(2) | 1(1) |
| Pine Siskin | --- | 3(4) | --- |
| Gray-headed Junco | --- | 1(2) | 1(2) |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 1(1) | + | 1(2) |
| Am. Robin | 1(2) | --- | 1(1) |
| Am. Magpie | 1(1) | + | 1(1) |
| Brown Creeper | 1(2) | + | --- |
| Clark's Nutcracker | --- | 1(2) | + |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | + | --- | 1(1) |
| Oregon Junco(Shufeldt's) | 1(1) | --- | --- |
| Goshawk | --- | --- | + |
| Horned Owl | --- | + | --- |
| Common Raven | --- | --- | + |
| Pine Grosbeak | --- | --- | + |
| Am. Goldfinch | --- | + | --- |
| Slate-colored Junco | + | --- | --- |
| Unidentified Juncos | + | + | + |
| No. Species 24 | 14 | 15 | 18 |
| Aver. birds per trip | 54 | 43 | 82 |
| Birds per 100 acres | 81 | 64 | 123 |

## More Notes from Weldona

by Howard Rollin

(February 8)

The large flocks of Tree Sparrows that were apparently heading north just before the cold wave of the week of Jan. 10th all disappeared during the cold wave. The usual numbers about the buildings(40-50), and small scattered flocks of 5 to 10 or more in the canyons were present until the warm February weather set in. There are not as many present as there were at this time. They leave as soon as warm weather occurs and those farther south apparently come in and are especially noticeable when a storm or cold spell comes. Tree Sparrows are singing commonly now.

The Oregon Juncos are still about in good numbers. Shufeldt's, Montana, in numbers and the usual small number of Pink-sided. They have not disappeared as yet. The Juncos are singing, also. The Gray Shrikes also apparently have left, as none has been noted since January 29.

The Lapland(Alaska) Longspurs appear to be working north and for a time occurred about one for each 10 or 12 Horned Larks. They leave also as soon as the weather warms up. The Horned Larks started singing January 9th, just before the cold spell and are singing in numbers now, with some starting their flight song. Many of them appear to have paired.

The first spring migrants arrived here January 29th, an unusually early date: one Robin and one White-winged Junco. The Junco sometimes spends the winter here, but as it was not seen last fall, even in migration, it can be considered a migrant, I believe. The Robin is very unusual, as its usual first arrival is in March, the 17th being the earliest date in the past seven years.

The Golden Eagle is present with 3 - 6 commonly seen. The American Rough-leg Hawk is common. The Prairie Falcon is seen occasionally as is the Sparrow Hawk. Horned Owls are about commonly and are nesting now. Magpies can be seen any time.

Goldfinches stray in occasionally but the large flocks all disappeared after the cold spell in January. House Sparrows are very scarce this year, with only 3 or 4 present now. Meadowlarks are singing in numbers.

All the birds about are very active today, with the temperature up to 72 degrees. Termites are swarming; their first appearance was on February 5, very early for them. Some small grasshoppers also are active.

(Editor's Note: These notes from Mr. Rollin are planned as a monthly feature. Unfortunately, not many of us are situated where we can make daily observations of so many species, but all such notes are welcome and will be published if space and time are available.)

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## Reflector Bird Camera

The team of C. S. Walton, E. L. Licht, B. R. Pfretzschner and R. E. Glover has progressed with their special bird camera project to the point where some field trials have been made. The camera is of the reflector type and has been built around an 8-inch diameter mirror of 48 inches focal length. The speed is therefore f:6. An Exacta camera, with the lens removed, is used to provide the film transport and shutter mechanisms. The diagonal mirror and ground glass arrangement on this camera provides a means of adjusting the focus.

The trials have been made at Mr. R. J. Niedrach's farm. Mr. Niedrach provided some mounted specimens which are very helpful for making the preliminary adjustments needed to get the camera operating. Later some live Jacksnipes and a Great Horned Owl were photographed.

During the first trials some difficulty with focusing which is believed to have been due to the cold was experienced. The latest trials were made in warmer weather and good images were obtained. As was expected, several details were found which need to be altered to make the camera work better. In spite of these early difficulties the results obtained thus far are encouraging.

It is hoped that the unusually long focal length of this camers will enable the photographer to take pictures from considerable distances as to avoid frightening the subject away. -- R. E. Glover

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We have received copies of the two latest issues of "The Observer", the bi-monthly paper of the Sacramento(Calif.) Audubon Society, of which Mrs. Crow's son, William Kirscher, is the editor.

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For Sale or Trade - John Douglass(Golden 851-R) has a copy of Audubon's "The Birds of America" (MacMillan Company - 1946) to trade or sell. Would like a copy of Audubon's "Mammals of America"

## Birds of the Season

Following are listed the more unusual reports of winter birds in the vicinity of Denver. In general, they appear to reflect the severe weather of November and December rather than the long mild spell in January and February.

(*asterisk indicates scheduled Bird Club Trips.)

Wood Duck - the one previously reported for 1/17, a female, was seen again at Sloan's Lake 1/30 (JD; MD) and 2/13(DMT).

Ring-necked Duck - 1 male 1/30 Berkeley Lake(JD, MD).

American Goldeneye - 1 1?30 Federal Center(MC, SM, BP, RW); 12 2?5 near Littleton(SM, BP).

Mourning Dove - 1 1/9 Parker Road near Denver(JC); 1/24 Cherry Creek(*).

Saw-whet Owl - 1 2/13 Hughes Ranch near Daniel's Park(RJN,JF).

Belted Kingfisher - 1 2/14 Clear Creek at McIntyre Rd(DMT)

Lewis's Woodpecker - 1 1/15 Lakewood(DMT) This species has been scarce this winter.

Common Raven - 6 12/20, 6 12/26, 3 2/6 Genesee Mountain Park(DMT)

Clark's Nutcracker - 5 2/2 Genesee Mountain Park(DMT)

American Robin - 8 in flock 2/16 E. Denver(RJN)

Mountain Bluebird - 10 2/4 Hughes Ranch(RJN, DMT)

Bohemian Waxwing - 25 2/6 Cherry Creek Canyon(AB); large flock 2/7 above georgetown(Taylors)

Loggerhead Shrike - 1 1/24 Cherry Creek(*)

Rusty Blackbird - 2 1/24 Cherry Creek(*)

Brewer's Blackbird - 50 1/23, 9 1/30 near Morrison(SM, BP, MC, RW); 12 2/6 near Littleton(SM, BP)

Cassin's Finch - 25 2/2 Genesee Mtn. Park, the first of the season and none since then (2/6, 2/7, 2/14)(DMT); has been abundant at Hughes Ranch through January and February(RJN)

Pine Grosbeak - mid-January, a dead female found near Cheesman Park, Denver, by Harvey D. Radetsky(RJN); 1 1/31, 3 2/2, 4 2/18 Genesee Mtn. Park (DMT); 15 2/14 Hughes Ranch(RJN, DMT)

Rosy Finch - 300 (species?) 1/23 near Morrison(SM, BP, MC)

Pine Siskin - 75 2/6 near Littleton(SM, BP)

Spotted Towhee - 3 or 4 males 2/4 Hughes Ranch(RJN, DMT)

White-winged Junco - 1 2/4(DMT, RJN); several 2/13(RJN) Hughes Ranch; 10 11/29, 2 12/6, 6 12/20, 15 1/10, 6 1/31, 5 2/2, 14 2/6, 11 2/7 at Genesee Mountain Park(DMT)

Contributors: Arthur Bennett, John Chapin, Mrs. Mary Crow, John and Margaret Douglass, John Flavin, Sadie Morrison, R. J. Niedrach, Bess Phelan, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Taylor, Donald M. Thatcher, Ruth Wheeler.

---D. M. Thatcher

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## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The January 10 trip to Barr Lake was cancelled, due to bad weather and no takers.

Eight members made the trip January 24 to Upper Cherry Creek, led by John Flavin. The party walked 5 or 6 miles in the morning, along Cherry Creek from John Chapin's home to the Douglas County line and in the afternoon covered the tableland in the vicinity of Franktown and Castle Rock. Forty species of birds were seen, including a Mourning Dove, a Loggerhead Shrike, 2 Rusty Blackbirds and several Killdeer and Wilson's Snipe along the Creek. Several Scrub Jays in the creek bottom were unusual in that habitat. Eight species of Raptores were seen: one Sharp-shinned, several Red-tailed and one light-colored Roughlegged Hawk, two Golden and one adult Bald Eagles, several Marsh Hawks, one Prairie Falcon and one Sparrow Hawk.

(FIELD TRIP REPORTS Cont.) The trip to Red Rocks Park and vicinity, February 13, led by Sadie Morrison and Ruth Wheeler, was attended by 19 people. Nineteen species were found, including Golden Eagle, Canyon Wren and Dipper(at Bear Creek) but nothing exceptionally unusual.

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CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY - MARCH

February

23 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification - John Chapin
8 PM Regular Meeting - Movie on Colorado Birds. Produced by R. J. Niedrach; presented by D. M. Thatcher.
Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History
(Please use north (employees') entrance.)

28 (Sun.) 7:30 AM Field Trip - Genesee Mountain Park - Donald Thatcher, leader - GL-7479. West Colfax & Sheridan. Transportation, 50¢.

*28 (Sun.) 2:30 & 4:30 PM } Lecture, "Holland and Belgium", by Robert Friars.

March

*1 (Mon.) 6:30 & 8:30 PM } Phipps Auditorium
Denver Museum of Natural History

*7 (Sun.) 2:30 & 4:30 PM } Lecture, "Desert Destiny", by J. Michael Hagopian

*8 (Mon.) 6:30 & 8:30 PM } (Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Iraq) Phipps Auditorium

9 (Tues.) 8 PM Free Lecture, "Canada North", by Bert Harwell.
"Nature on the Screen" series. Phipps Auditorium.

14 (Sun.) 8 AM Field Trip - Barr Lake and vicinity - John Chapin, leader - PL5-0862 Montview & Colorado Blvds. Bring lunch. Transportation, 50¢.

*14 (Sun.) 2:30 & 4:30 PM } Lecture, "Canada", by Ray Eggersted.

*15 (Mon.) 6:30 & 8:30 PM } Phipps Auditorium.

*21 (Sun.) 2:30 & 4:30 PM } Lecture, "Man Eater", by Sasha Siemel.

*22 (Mon.) 6:30 & 8:30 PM } (Hunting jaguars - Matto Grosso) Phipps Auditorium.

23 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification - John Chapin. } Bird Room,
8 PM Regular Meeting } Denver Mus. Nat. Hist.

27 (Sat.) 1 PM Field Trip - Standley Lake - Robert Glover - PE-8757 - Meet Lakeside entrance (Bus 28), Sheridan & West 46th. Transportation, 50¢.

*28 (Sun.) 2:30 & 4:30 PM } Lecture, "Jungle Career", by Oliver Milton

*29 (Mon.) 6:30 & 8:30 PM } (British East Africa) Phipps Auditorium.

* These film lectures are provided by the Denver Museum Association. All balcony seats and unclaimed downstairs seats are free to the public.

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COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 1 No. 6 March 1954

## Birds of Switzerland

by James Humphrey

Many of you may have vacationed in Switzerland or talked to friends who have been there for a short time. The first thing they mention is the breath-taking beauty of the mountains and valleys. But ask them about birds and they become silent or laugh and say "Sure, we heard the Cuckoo. It sounds just like the one in the Cuckoo Clock." Ask if they had seen any birds similar to the beautiful Tanager flashing through the evergreens, the Pipit above timberline singing on the wing, or the Dipper hopping from rock to rock in a rushing stream and probably none of them will recall seeing anything but a few gray birds flying around or Ravens circling in the sky. To the bird lover the almost total non-existence of birds in the lovely Swiss Alps leaves an empty feeling in his heart.

I stayed in Interlocken for the first twelve days of June, rising every morning at daybreak for a stroll into the woods or a climb up a nearby mountain. A pair of small binoculars and a camera were my constant companions. After a few days I had all but given up finding birds and concentrated instead on the many wild flowers. Even though there is no law against picking flowers in Switzerland, and everyone I met had a fist full of wilted flowers, roots and all, there were still plenty to be found.

The most common birds in the lowlands and villages are the House Sparrows and the Starlings. There are many finches including the Bullfinch, the Goldfinch and the Chaffinch. There were supposed to be Thrushes around but I never saw or heard any. There are some blackbirds, Wrens, Robins and Titmice. I saw the Skylark only on the border of Italy. The only water bird in this area was the domesticated Swan. I saw one Spotted Woodpecker, similar to our Hairy. I never saw a single bird above timberline. They say the scarcity of birds is due to the Italians' eating them during migration. England's birds seem to have escaped such persecution, but the bird population there is diminishing because of the breaking up of large estates, the destruction of many forests during the war and the increase of predatory animals.

It is difficult to find information on birds in Switzerland. It is best to visit museums whenever possible. The finest and newest in Switzerland is at Bern where is displayed a most complete collection of mounted birds.

One of the finest places to visit is the Camargue area of southern France along the Mediterranean where the Rhone river empties. There are said to be more than a hundred species of birds nesting there and over two hundred species can be seen during migration. Here ducks, flamingos, herons, bitterns, egrets and others can be found. There are six species of warblers and many birds of prey. This area is managed by trained naturalists and wardens.

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As suggested in the October issue, we plan to publish the totals of your lists for the year and also life lists. For comparative purposes, year(Calendar year 1953) and life lists limited to Colorado are preferred especially, but complete life lists are desired also. Please send complete lists, not just numbers, so that extra subspecies, if you list them, can be noted for all on the same basis.

--The Editor--

## The Volterra Studies

by R. E. Glover

(Summary of talk given at January meeting of the Colorado Bird Club)

In a text bearing the title "Lecons sur la Theorie Mathematique de la Lutte pour la Vie", (Lessons on the Mathematical Theory of the Struggle for Existence) the eminent mathematician Vito Volterra collected the results of his researches on the relations between species. This text was published by Gauthier-Villars in Paris in 1931. Volterra's method of investigation was to express in mathematical form the everyday factors which influence the welfare of various species, such as birth rates, death rates, deaths due to predation, the effects of the availability of food on reproduction rates, and the like, and then to solve the resulting equations to discover how the numbers of the species might vary in response to those factors. The mathematical formulation of such relations often leads to expressions known as "non-linear parametric differential equations." Since we are here interested primarily in the outcome of these researches we need say no more about the mathematical aspects of this subject other than to note that equations of this type present formidable difficulties so that a high degree of mathematical skill is needed to deal with them. This probably explains why the possibilities of this method of investigation have not been more extensively exploited.

In the first chapter he deals with the coexixtence of two species. The first case treated is that of two species which compete for a limited food supply. Violence is absent from this system and popular opinion probably would rate it as ideal. The solution obtained, however, indicates that it must end with the extermination of one of the two species. The outcome is not altered even though both species may enjoy an initial period of prosperity in the early stages of the co-existence, if their numbers are such that the food supply is ample for both. The species which survives is the one less affected by the diminution of the food supply. In popular parlance this is the species with the "lower standard of living". After the doomed species disappears the surviving species increases its numbers until the limitations of the food supply are reached. The final situation is one of near-starvation in which the food supply available to each individual is just barely able to maintain its existence. Experiments with two varieties of wheats, with two varieties of paramecium and with two varieties of yeast confirm these conclusions.

The second case treated is one in which a predatory species preys upon an herbiverous species. It is found that a state of equilibrium is possible where the numbers of the two species do not change with time. Under these conditions the birth rates just balance the death rates so that the numbers of the two species remain constant. If something happens to disturb this condition of equilibrium, however, an oscillatory variation occurs. The numbers of each species vary continuously, rising at intervals above the equilibrium numbers and then falling below them. The variation is periodic. The peaks are sharp while the valleys are broad. The time to complete a cycle of change depends upon the birth rate of the prey species and the death rate of the predatory species. Although violence is present in this system, extermination of either species cannot occur. Furthermore, the average number of each species, taken over a full cycle, remains the same no matter how violent the swings may be. The solution of this case provides an explanation of certain periodic fluctuations which have been found to occur in the numbers of wild birds and animals. Plots of the numbers of Rabbit and Lynx hides handles by the Hudson Bay Company over many years shows these fluctuations in a very striking way.

The mathematician A. Lotka, who also studied these equations, carried the analyses a step further by taking into account the effects of crowding. By so doing he accounted for the fact that when either species becomes numerous they begin to interfere with each other to their mutual detriment. The effect of this factor is to

(Continued on page 3)

cause the fluctuations to die out so that after the system is disturbed it gravitates back toward the equilibrium position by a series of damped oscillations. These studies bring out another important fact, which is that the system with predation is self-governing. No matter how the system is disturbed it will, if left alone, rock persistently back toward the equilibrium position. This equilibrium position, it may be noted, is not one of starvation, as before, but is a healthy one with enough food for all. The outcome of these studies does not give support to the plea of the shotgun conservationist to kill all predators to save the game supply but it does provide some clues as to the nature of the mechanism which preserved the balance of nature during the ages before modern man came upon the scene and began to interfere with it.

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## Weldona Notes
by Howard Rollin

March 12 - The continued warm and pleasant weather of the last month did not bring in any migrants of interest except one lone Mountain Bluebird today, but it did cause the winter residents to move about considerably. The Tree Sparrows mentioned last month as being almost all gone at that writing(Feb. 8) remained very scarce about here for almost a week. Then evidently those that wintered farther south began to arrive and there were 100 or more about here until just the last few days when the number again dwindled to 5 or a dozen about the place here.

The Oregon Juncos, Shufeldt and Montana, remained about the same but the Pink-sided increased to 15 or 20 and so remain at the present. The White-winged is still rare.

The Red-winged Blackbird is a year-round resident about 10-12 miles south of here, but is rare here. The first noted here was Feb. 14 when 2 or 3 stopped briefly, and then again 4-5, March 11. One Starling also came March 11, but did not stay.

Three or 4 Lapland Longspurs(Alaska) were noted March 3. That is probably the last time for them about here, unless this blizzard should bring some in as they often do.

American Rough-legged Hawks are still common as are Marsh Hawks. One or two Golden Eagles are still about.

Magpies and House Sparrows are both busy fixing up old nests or looking for sites for new ones. Horned Larks are commonly performing their flight songs and appear to be preparing nesting sites as well.

March 14 - The end of the blizzard yesterday and the return of fair weather does not return the Tree Sparrows, as there are only about a dozen here today. Nor are the Juncos so numerous as they were a few days ago; only about a dozen of them are about and most appear to be Shufeldt's and Montana with only one Pink-sided noted and no White-winged Juncos.

In a scattered flock of about 100 Horned Larks yesterday, only one Lapland Longspur(Alaska) was noted; they also are about gone. One Red-winged Blackbird is staying about here now; it first came on the 13th. One Sparrow Hawk has been about occasionally the last two days. Two goldfinches, species not determined, were here briefly also.

## Birds of the Month

The weather's retuen to nearly normal the last three weeks has apparently halted what might have been an early migration by many species. The reports indicate little, if any, unusually early movement. (*Asterisk indicates scheduled Bird Club field trip)

Horned Grebe - 1 3/14 Barr Lake*
Western Grebe - 1 2/27 Hoffman Lake, near Loveland (JD, MD)
Pied-billed Grebe - 1 3/14 Barr Lake*
Great Blue Heron - 1 2/27 Hoffman Lake(JD,MD)
Canada Goose - 25 3/14 Barr Lake*; 5 3/14 Horse Creek Reservoir*
Green-winged Teal - several 3/14 Barr Lake*
Wood Duck - 2/28 - last observation of the female at Sloan's Lake(HT,DMT)
Buffle-head - 2 3/14 Barr Lake*; 1 3/14 Horse Creek Reservoir*
Ruddy Duck - 1 female 3/13 near Federal Correctional Institution-Englewood(DMT)
Richardson's Pigeon Hawk - 1 3/13 Cherry Creek Dam(JF)
Red-headed Woodpecker - 1 heard 3/14 Barr Lake*
Lewis's Woodpecker - 1 3/27 near Loveland(JD,MD)
Canyon Wren - 5 3/14 Red Rocks Park (DMT)
Mockingbird - 1 2/27 Littleton(Mrs. DeMent)
Am. Robin - flock of 30 2/28 Berkeley Park, Denver(DMT,HT)
Mountain Bluebird - 16 2/27 Loveland, 2 2/27 Hygiene(JD,MD); 2 2/28 Genesee Mountain Park*; large flock 3/12 during storm Fort Morgan(also many Robins and Juncos)(NBH)
Red Crossbill - flock of 10 2/28 Genesee Mtn. Park*
White-winged Junco 6 2/28 Genesee Mtn Park(decreasing)*
Gray-headed Junco 8 2/28 Genesee Mtn. Park(increasing)*
Song Sparrow 1 3/13 Red Rocks Park(apparently migrating)(DMT)

Contributors: Mrs. T. L. DeMent, John and Margaret Douglass, John Flavin, Nelle B. Hansen, Donald and Hazel Thatcher.

Several persons have expressed uncertainty as to what birds to report for the monthly summary. The simplest solution might be to report everything and let us select the unusual species or the unusual or significant dates.

A more practical (and more educational) solution is to obtain a copy of "The Birds of Denver and Mountain Parks," by Niedrach and Rockwell($2.50 at the Museum). This volume provides a list of the birds occurring at or near Denver, with the seasonal status of each species, its relative abundance or frequency and the life zones and habitats in which it generally occurs. The writer has transferred this information to the margins of his Peterson's Field Guide by the use in most cases of three or four letters, as C-SR-C & H(Common summer resident- Canadian and Hudsonian zones), R-M-US(rare migrant, Upper Sonoran zone), U-WR-T(uncommon winter resident, Transition zone). If you prefer, substitute the more descriptive zone names: Plains, Foothills, Montana, Subalpine and Alpine(those used, for example, in Pesman's "Meet the Natives") for the broader names: Upper Sonoran, Transition, Canadian, Hudsonian and Arctic Alpine. This information added to your guide is also a quick aid in identification of a new bird, but should not be the determining point, as you may have a rarity not listed by Niedrach and Rockwell. Such species found recently in or near Denver include the Swamp Sparrow and the Wood Thrush. Several other species listed by N and R for Denver and vicinity are not described in Peterson's Western Guide(see pages xvi and xvii of introduction to that book). Habitats also can be misleading or may have special significance. For instance, the Song Sparrow is said to prefer cat-tail marshes on the plains and meadows in the mountains. The Song Sparrow reported above was in a plum thicket in an ordinarily dry situation, a most unusual one for that species, and presumably was in vertical migration between the two preferred wet habitats.

As to what to report:
(1) Any species listed as rare, uncommon or occasional, or one not listed at all.
(2) Any species, no matter how common or ordinary, occurring at any time outside the seasons, life zones and/or habitats listed for it.
(3) Activities or behavior, such as early or late(in the season) singing, first and last dates of migration(both spring and fall) and, more important, the dates of the main migrations of all migratory species; all dates of nest-building, egg-laying, young out of nest; and any unusual activity or behavior.

Many of our observations may be worthwhile additions to the life history of a species, if published, although to many observers they have little significance. For instance, the Robin is said not to sing during migration; early singing, as in February or early March may then mean that some individuals have established breeding territories even before the main migration of Robins takes place.

When in doubt as to the identity of an apparently rare or unseasonal bird, if possible, notify as many other birders as you can of your find, for help in identification and verification. Remember that the professional ornithologists seldom accept sight records from the best of experts for first records or extreme rarities, but require collection or, at least, photographic evidence.

-- D. M. Thatcher --

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The trip to GENESEE MOUNTAIN PARK, Feb. 28, 1954, was attended by 7 members. Fifteen species were found at the Park, the Pygmy Nuthatch most numerous, and a Horned Owl the most unusual. A flock of ten or more Red Crossbills feeding in Ponderosa Pines was the most interesting find. The only new migrants seen were two Mountain Bluebirds.

The March 14 trip to BARR LAKE, HORSE CREEK RESERVOIR and RUBY LAKE was attended by 11 people, with fair weather and a cool northeast wind. Ruby Lake was frozen, with no birds, but Barr Lake and the Reservoir were fairly well populated. Thirty-eight species were seen, including Horned and Pied-billed Grebes, Canada Goose, and ten ducks, but no migrant shorebirds. Most unusual ducks were the Bufflehead and American Merganser. Hawks seen were Red-tailed, Rough-legged, Marsh and Sparrow and Prairie Falcon.

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The Field Trip Committee is planning a trip to Bonney Lake, in eastern Colorado, for Saturday and Sunday, May 15 and 16, for eastern birds. Plans include camping at public camp ground at the lake, for those who are so inclined and lodging at a Motel for the others. Ferd Kleinschnitz will be in charge.

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WELCOME, New Member: Mr. Thompson Marsh, 199 Ash Street. FR 5380

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PERSONAL: James Humphrey and Marion Turnbull, of Berwickshire, Scotland, were married December 29, 1953.

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OMISSION: February Issue - Page 2- Add a plus sign for Brown Creeper under 1952-53 Douglas Fir Forest.

CALENDAR FOR MARCH - APRIL

March

23 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification - John Chapin
8 PM Regular Meeting - Movie, "Sunrise Serenade" (Three species of Grouse) Presented by Ferd Kleinschnitz.
Bring your "Peterson", if convenient, to the 8 o'clock meeting.
Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History NORTH ENTRANCE

27 (Sat.) 1 PM Field Trip - Standley Lake - Robert Glover, leader - PE-8757 - Meet W 46th & Sheridan (Bus 28) - Transportation, 50¢.

*28 (Sun.) 2:30 & 4:30 PM Lecture, "Jungle Career", by Oliver Milton
*29 (Mon.) 6:30 & 8:30 PM (British East Africa) Phipps Auditorium
Denver Museum of Natural History

April

2 (Fri.) 8 PM Free lecture, "Western Discovery", by Laurel Reynolds
"Nature on the Screen" series Phipps Auditorium

4 (Sun.) 8 AM Field Trip - Clear Creek, east of Golden - John & Margaret Douglass, leaders - Golden 851-R - Meet 46 & Sheridan (Bus 28) - Transp. 25¢

*4 (Sun.) 2:30 & 4:30 PM Lecture, "Spain", by Clifford Kamen
*5 (Mon.) 6:30 & 8:30 PM Phipps Auditorium Denver Mus. of Nat. Hist.

10 (Sat.) 7 AM Field Trip - Lone Tree Lake, near Berthoud - R. Glover, leader - PE-8757 - Meet 46th & Sheridan (Bus 28) - Bring lunch - Transp 75¢

17 (Sat.) 7 AM Joint Field Trip with Colorado Mountain Club - Cherry Creek and Arapahoe County - Drs. Chapin & Brunquist, leaders - meet at Library, Civic Center

19 (Mon.) 6 PM & 7 PM Meeting of Aiken Ornithological Society (of Colorado Springs) at Bird Room, Denver Mus. Nat. Hist., for showing of movie "Through the Zones". Box supper at 6 (bring your own). This Club invited to get acquainted.

24 (Sat.) 6:30 AM Field Trip - Vicinity of Parker - John Flavin, leader - PL5-1744
Meet Speer & Downing - Bring lunch - Transportation, 50¢

27 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification Bird Room
8 PM Regular Meeting Denver Mus. Nat. Hist.

* Screen lectures provided by the Denver Museum Association. All balcony seats and unclaimed downstairs seats are free to the public.

Mrs. Rose Wells
3340 W. 37th Ave.
Denver 11
Colo.

Colorado Bird Club
2916 Perry St.
Denver 12, Colo.

# COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. I No. 7 April 1954

## DENVER SPRING COUNT

by John L. Chapin

Many who have read the chapter called "The Big Day" in Peterson's BIRDS OVER AMERICA have a hint of the excitement generated by planning for and participating in a "century run," "grim grind," or just plain "spring count." Unlike the Christmas count, there is no restriction on area, but all observers must be in one party. Several simultaneous counts may, however, be combined in a "roundup." The object is for a party to find as many species of birds as it can in one calendar day. Except in the extreme south, the best time for this is (usually) sometime in May. In coastal areas it is sometimes possible to exceed 170 species of birds on a good day. Inland regions have to be content with lower numbers but very respectable lists can be obtained. A party at Rochester, New York, last year found 150 species, bettering its own 1949 mark of 144 which beat my party's 143 (1953) by one species.

When I arrived in Colorado in 1951 I found that nobody hereabouts indulged in this barbarous practice. Mr. Niedrach told me that the ecological isolation of many species here would probably limit such a count to about 100 species. I was not unhappy, therefore, when I counted 105 on a Saturday in late May 1951. The next year I was joined by John Flavin and we raised our total to 119. Last year five of us started out at a very early hour from Lang Baily's, and arrived at Echo Lake just before dawn, having picked up several species in the dark, the best of which was the Poorwill. We found the usual high altitude birds at Echo Lake; also, Bob Fox and Jay Arnold found a rarity, White-winged Crossbill. We picked up more birds along Chicago Creek and at Genesee Mountain and Red Rocks, had very good luck at Turkey Creek and Little Turkey Creek, and at Marston Lake added some water birds. We had already beaten 1952's 119 when Lang Baily, Bob Fox, and Jay Arnold had to drop out.

John Flavin and I went on to Barr Lake, Mile High Lakes and Ruby Lake. We left Ruby Lake after dark, having found 141 species. At Horse Creek Reservoir we found a Short-eared Owl and we identified our last bird, a winnowing Wilson's Snipe, at Mile High Lakes. We reached home around 10:30 P.M., having been out for somewhat over 20 hours and having found 143 species of birds. We feel that it will be difficult to equal this record this May 22 when we will try again.

## LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKENS

by Arthur J. Bennett

The morning of April 2, 1954, Mrs. Bennett and I left Denver for New Mexico to look for the rather rare and localized Lesser Prairie Chickens. That night we stayed at Tucumcari, New Mexico, and searched the next morning near Tucumcari for the Chickens, but without success. Upon inquiry we found that the Chickens were very scarce in that neighborhood and none had been seen or heard this year. Therefore, we headed farther south for Portales and districts south of Portales where the birds were listed by Pettingill as fairly plentiful.

At the crossroads called Milnesand, nearly forty miles south of Portales, we inquired at the Davis Mercantile concerning the Chickens. Mr. Davis said that there were several booming grounds in the neighborhood and that the game warden, Mr. Woods, had just left before we arrived. Mr. Davis contacted the game warden by phone and he very obligingly returned to see us. Mr. Woods then took us about three miles to a small booming ground, which was alongside a stoned road. The road being stoned was very important because this was sandhill country and a car could very easily get stuck in sandy side roads. When the booming grounds were pointed out to us we could see the extent of the grounds because the Chickens had beaten down the sparse grass over this area and footprints littered the sand. These grounds were approximately 100 feet in diameter. Mr. Woods said this was a small booming ground with only four or five males booming, but that they had been there the day before. After checking the booming grounds this year, he said that the population appeared to be the same as last year and the drought did not seem to be depleting the flocks.

Mrs. Bennett and I decided to come back at sundown and try to see the Chickens booming. While passing the time in the afternoon, we parked the car near a stock watering tank so as to observe birds coming in to drink, because water is very scarce in this arid region. We were fortunate enough to have a fine view of Harris' Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Horned Larks, Killdeer, Vesper Sparrows and Lark Buntings coming in to the water. The male Lark Buntings had not as yet attained fully their summer plumage. They were in various stages from dirty faces to practically full black plumage with white trimming.

About 5:30 we drove in near the booming grounds and parked about 100 yards from the grounds to wait for sundown. A few minutes after sundown at 6:30 we heard the Chickens start booming. After spotting the birds, we started the car and crept up the road alongside the grounds and less than 100 feet from the Chickens. This did not seem to disturb the Chickens, which kept on strutting and booming. We could locate only four birds. Two of the Chickens played "footsie" over in one corner of the grounds. They must have had a hard day because they squatted on the ground, eyeing each other, and only got up when they gave a "hoot." The other two moved around somewhat. They boomed and cackled for nearly half an hour until it was too dark for us to see the Chickens any more. We left at 7:00 o'clock, very elated at what we had seen and heard, and did hear one or two booms as we drove contentedly away.

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## The Sage Hen Has a Stomach, Not a Gizzard

At the last meeting, the question was raised as to whether or not the sage hen has a gizzard. The following quotations may be of interest relative to that question.

Bent, A. C. 1932. Life Histories of North American Gallinaceous Birds. U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 162:305.

"Dr. Sylvester D. Judd...says:

The feeding habits of the sage grouse are peculiar, and its organs of digestion are unlike those of other grouse. The stomach is not differentiated into a powerful grinding gizzard, but is a thin, weak, membranous bag, resembling the stomach of a raptorial bird. Such an organ is evidently designed for the digestion of soft food, and we find that the bulk of the sage grouse's diet consists of leaves and tender shoots....Four birds shot in Wyoming during May and September...had gorged themselves with the leaves of sage brush....This and other sages...furnish the bulk of the food of the sage grouse...."

Wetmore, A. 1936. Game Birds of Prairie, Forest and Tundra. Nat. Geog. Mag. 70:487.

"...A strong, muscular gizzard, like that of the domestic chicken, is so usual among grouselike birds that it is curious to find in the sage grouse a stomach that is merely a thin-walled sack. Feeding as it does on insects and soft vegetation in summer, and on the leaves of sage in winter, the sage grouse apparently digests this food without the need of a strong grinding organ...."

--John R. Douglass

On the other hand....

Joe Van Wormer, in "The Desert Dancers," AUDUBON MAGAZINE, March-April 1953, page 56, says:

"....Many people believe that the sage grousehas no gizzard, because the stomach is thin-walled and soft compared with the thick, muscular gizzard of many other game birds and of domestic chickens. The gizzard of the sage grouse has less muscle than those of grain-eating game birds, but it is very similar to their structure, even to the horny, inner lining. Most gallinaceous birds - pheasants, quail, etc. - feed on grain, weed seeds, and such. They fill their gizzards, along with thesepalatable items, with sizable amountsof hard gravel. The gravel and grain grind together in the gizzard until both are reduced to something the rest of the bird's digestive system can handle. The sage grouse, without such a powerful gizzard, apparently gets by because it confines its diet to soft foods, principally leafy plants and insects."

-- D. M. T.

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## THE CATTLE EGRET - A NEW SPECIES IN NORTH AMERICA

Colorado birders are urged to check closely any white heron they may observe, because of the possibility that it might be a species new to this region, the Cattle Egret (Bubulcus ibis), also known as Tick Bird or Buff-backed Heron.

The Cattle Egret, of which there are two subspecies, is native to most of Africa and southern Asia, its range extending north to Portugal and southern Spain, Arabia, Persia, India, southern China, Korea and southern Japan. About 1930 it was found in British Guiana, in South America, and is believed to have come from Africa naturally, perhaps in a tropical storm, although it may have been brought as pets by immigrants from India. In South America it has multiplied and spread in large numbers from Surinam to Colombia. In 1952 it was found in small flocks in Florida, and later as single birds in Massachusetts and New Jersey and as near to this region as Chicago. Last year the first nests in North America (four) were found in Florida.

The Cattle Egret (20 inches) closely resembles our Snowy Egret (Brewster's Egret) (20 - 27 inches), but the crown, neck, back and breast of the adult are washed with tawny or buff. The bill is much stouter than that of the Snowy. Bill and legs are yellow or reddish-yellow, while the Snowy's are black (Snowy Egret's feet are yellow). The Cattle Egret is stockier and stands more erect than the Snowy. It feeds commonly on insects close to the feet of cattle, a habit common also with the Snowy Egret. The yellow bill of the Cattle Egret should not be confused with the yellow bill of the (here) uncommon American Egret (or Common Egret),

which is larger (38 - 41 inches or nearly the size of the Great Blue Heron) and has black feet and legs. A habit peculiar to the Cattle Egret is a wavy motion of the head and neck which seems to flow down to and through the body, two or three times at intervals while the bird is feeding.

Because of the wandering habit of the Cattle Egret and the abundance of cattle in this region, it seems not unlikely that the bird might visit us in the near future. It is suggested that the pertinent data above be transferred to the margin of your guide for field reference.

Additional and illustrated information on the Cattle Egret in North and South America is contained in the July-August and September-October, 1953, AUDUBON MAGAZINE and the August 1953 AUDUBON FIELD NOTES, from all of which the above notes were taken.

-- D. M. Thatcher

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## Weldona Notes

**April 11, 1954**

by Howard Rollin

Since March 12, when the last notes were written, migrants have started to arrive in varied numbers and I believe it might be better to report from day to day rather than to place the birds in the usual order.

The feature of the winter and spring is still the unusual numbers of American Tree Sparrows and Juncos. The Tree Sparrows varied in numbers from day to day, were nearly all gone at the last writing and then again were common March 21 and all bubbling in song. Those left, but March 26 there were 75 to 100 again about the farm buildings, in song. After these departed, about 150 to 200 appeared March 30 with the light snow, then dwindled to small numbers until April 9, when none were seen.

The Oregon Juncos (Shufeldt's, Montana and Pink-sided) were nearly gone by March 19, but again were common and in song March 21. Those apparently left, until by March 26 only eight or ten were about, mostly Shufeldt's with two or three Montanas. These two subspecies increased to ten or 15 during the March 30 snow, with two or three Pink-sided, also one Slate-colored (first seen March 23) and a White-winged Junco. The Juncos are all gone today except the Pink-sided. It was interesting to compare the five Juncos and note their differences in size and color.

The first McCown's Longspurs (two or three) were noted March 15, with 15 or 20 March 19, then none until April 5.

The first Killdeer appeared March 19 - became common March 27 with a flock of eight. We think of the Killdeer as a shore bird, but it is common about the buildings here and nests in the dry fields and pastures a mile or more from water. Last year those nesting down the creek brought their youngsters up to the vicinity of the buildings long before they could fly, food apparently being more plentiful here.

The Western Meadowlarks are singing in their territories and are no doubt preparing their nests, as they generally have young on the wing early in May.

The last two Rough-legged Hawks were noted March 22 and 27.

The first Mountain Bluebirds seen after the single one previously reported for March 12 were 12 or 14, March 23, with several small bands March 26, more March 27, and none since that date.

Red-winged Blackbirds, last seen March 11, again appeared (eight to ten) March 26, followed by small numbers every day, none staying long.

Six or eight Goldfinches, probably the Lesser, were noted March 26.

Two American Ravens passed March 26. This species is rare here, but two or three are seen every year. There is some indication that they nest in the vicinity, as later in the spring they often return with one or two that appear to be young. This needs checking, as no nest has been found.

The first Robin, after the very unusual January 29 bird, appeared March 27 and was seen occasionally for a week. The Robin is always rare here.

Following are several first appearances: April 1, Swainson's Hawk (2); April 2, American Sparrow Hawk (Common); April 3, Red-shafted Flicker (1); April 4, Say's Phoebe (2) (common by April 11); April 5, House Finch (1); April 6, Mourning Dove (Mrs. McCutcheon reported doves March 17 in Fort Morgan); April 8, Sage Thrasher (1); April 9, Loggerhead Shrike (1); Common Starling (1); Cowbird (1); Hermit Thrush (1); April 10, Rock Wren (1); Mallard (3) along creek.

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## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Twenty members made the trip to STANDLEY LAKE March 27, led by Robert Glover. Thirty species of birds were seen, including a Bald Eagle, Greater Yellowlegs and several Great Blue Herons. Two Sandhill Cranes were the outstanding birds of the day.

The CLEAR CREEK trip was attended by five people, April 4, a warm, sunny day. Twenty-one species were found, including one melanistic Buteo, probably a Swainson's Hawk, and three Long-billed Marsh Wrens, two of which were in full song. Most unusual occurrence was of four Downy Woodpeckers together, all of which appeared to be Nelson's, as their wings were many-spotted nd the outer tail feathers were unmarked.

The trip, April 10, to LONE TREE LAKE, near Berthoud, was attended by 21 people, led by Robert Glover. Forty-two species were found at the lake, including nine ducks, four grebes and Double-crested Cormorant. Six Black-crowned Night Herons and about 21 Great Blue Herons, of which as many as 14 were visible at one time, were found in the vicinity of a rookery. Probably due to the drought (the lakes were just filling) land birds were far from abundant. A Marsh Wren, a Savannah Sparrow, two Vesper Sparrows, and several Pine Siskins and American Goldfinches were counted. A Golden Eagle was the only raptore identified. Other species seen between Berthoud and Denver included Baird's Sandpiper, Avocet, Franklin's Gull, Mourning Dove, Say's Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike and Bufflehead. The day's total was 52 species.

The joint trip with the Colorado Mountain Club up CHERRY CREEK from the Chapin home to the Douglas County line, April 17, was made by 25 people. Twenty-three species were seen, including White-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Grackle, Scrub Jay and

Turkey Vulture. Starling, Sparrow Hawk and Red-shafted Flicker were the most noticeable, being distributed evenly over the entire distance. A pair of Red-tailed Hawks were well observed as they soared screaming low overhead over a large cottonwood grove. In the same grove, a House Finch was nest-building behind loose bark of a large dead cottonwood.

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## Birds of the Month

Following are some observations on migration and early nesting. For additional records see also Howard Rollin's "Weldona Notes" and Trip Reports in this issue. (*Asterisk indicates scheduled Bird Club Field Trip.)

Eared Grebe - 4/10 Berthoud*
Western Grebe - 6 4/10 Berthoud*
Double-crested Cormorant - 3 4/10 Berthoud*, 8 4/10 Longmont*
Great Blue Heron - several 3/27 Standley Lake; 21 4/10 Berthoud*
Snowy Egret - 1 4/11 SE Denver (JF)
Black-crowned Night Heron - 6 4/10 Berthoud*
Gadwall - several 3/20 near Boulder (JD, MD)
Blue-winged Teal - 2 3/28 Clear Creek near Golden (JD,MD)
Greater Scaup - 2 4/4 Bowles Lake(JD,MD)
Red-breasted Merganser - 1 4/4 Bowles Lake(JD,MD)
Turkey Vulture - 3 4/10 near Loveland*
Sharp-shinned Hawk - 1 3/16 Golden(JD,MD)
Cooper's Hawk - 1 3/16 Clear Creek near Golden(JD,MD)
Sandhill Crane - 2 3/27 Standley Lake*
Wilson's Snipe - 22 3/28 Clear Creek near Golden(JD,MD)
Greater Yellowlegs - 3/27 Standley Lake*, 1 4/4 Sloan's Lake(DT)
Baird's Sandpiper - 16 4/10 Longmont*
American Avocet - 3/27 Standley Lake*, 4/10 Longmont*
Franklin's Gull - 17 4/10 Longmont*
Mourning Dove - 2 3/19 Clear Creek E. of Golden(JD,MD); 6 3/27 SE Denver(JF); singing 3/27 NW Denver(MP)
Burrowing Owl - 2 4/11 SE Denver(JF)
White-throated Swift - 6 4/4 Red Rocks Park(DT)
Belted Kingfisher - at least 4 3/28 Clear Creek E. of Golden(JD,MD)
Yellow-shafted Flicker - 1 4/1 near Golden(JD,MD)
Williamson's Sapsucker - 1 male 4/4 Genesee Mtn.(DT,HT)
Dipper - 1 singing 4/3 Boulder(JD,MD)
Rock Wren-2(in song) 4/4 Red Rocks Park(DT)
Am. Robin - building nest 4/18 NW Denver(DT)
Western Bluebird - 2 4/4 Genesee Mtn. Park(DT,HT)
Mountain Bluebird - 200 4/1 near Standley Lake, 300 4/3 Niwot(JD,MD)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 1 singing 4/19 NW Denver(MP)
Common Starling - building nest 3/23 NW Denver(DT)
Yellow-headed Blackbird - 4/4 near Arvada(SM); 1 4/4 Fed. Correction Institute (JD,MD) small flocks 4/18 Denver(DT,HT)
Brewer's Blackbird - 30 4/4 F. C. I. (JD,MD)
Purple Grackle - 7 4/13 SE Denver(JF)
Evening Grosbeak - 1 3/20 Golden, 30 3/20 Boulder(JD,MD)
House Finch - with nest material 3/28 Golden(JD,MD); 4/14 NW Denver(DT)
Spotted Towhee - 1 3/21 City Park, Denver(LL)
Savannah Sparrow - 1 Berthoud*
Vesper Sparrow - 2 Berthoud*

Contributors: John and Margaret Douglass, John Flavin, Leonard Licht, Sadie Morrison, Margaret Pritchett, Donald and Hazel Thatcher.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Mr. Yandell Boatner, 800 Ogden Street

Staff Sgt. Leo Galloway, Hdqtrs. Squadron, Air Base Group, Lowry Air Force Base, Denver

Mrs. Anna Marvin, 624 Knox Court, Denver

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BONNY LAKE TRIP

A trip for eastern birds is planned for Saturday and Sunday, May 15 and 16. Plans are to spend Saturday night at Burlington, Colorado, 164 miles from Denver, or for those who so desire to use the public camp ground at the lake, which is about 30 miles north of Burlington. Those wishing reservations at Burlington and any who need or can furnish transportation should call Ferd Kleinschnitz (RA 9041) not later than noon, Tuesday, May 11. Meeting times and places will be arranged later to suit drivers and passengers.

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CALENDAR FOR APRIL - MAY 1954

April

27 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification - John Chapin
8 PM Regular Meeting - Movie, "Through the Life Zones", produced by R. J. Niedrach, presented by D. M. Thatcher.
Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History
(North (employees') entrance)

May

2 (Sun.) 6:30 AM Field Trip - Red Rocks Park and Marston Lake - Donald Thatcher, leader - GL7479 - Meet Sheridan & W. Colfax - Transportation, 50¢

8 (Sat.) 1 PM Field Trip - Platte Valley, Welby and north - Ruth Wheeler, leader GL-3924 - Meet E. 23rd & York St. - Transportation, 50¢

11 (Tues.) Reservations due by noon for May 15-16 trip to Bonny Lake. Call Ferd Kleinschnitz - RA-9041. See announcement above

15 (Sat.) Two-day field trip to Bonny Lake, near Burlington, Colo.
16 (Sun.) Ferd Kleinschnitz, leader - RA-9041. Meeting time and place to be arranged.

22 (Sat.) 1 PM Field Trip - Plum Creek, near Sedalia - spring migration - Sadie Morrison, leader - MA-0840 - Meet Alameda Ave. in block west of Broadway - transportation, 50¢

25 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification
8 PM Regular Meeting - Election of officers
Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History

The public is welcome at all meetings and trips. No charge for tpips is made except for transportation when furnished by others.

# COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 1 No. 8 May-June 1954

## SPRING COUNT

by John L. Chapin

This year's Spring Count was made Saturday, May 22, Jay Arnold, Arthur Bennett, John Chapin, John Flavin, Jim Humphrey and Don Thatcher participating. The party assembled at about 2:40 AM, by which time two birds, Yellow Warbler and Robin, had been recorded. The Hogback at Turkey Creek was covered first for night birds, without success, except for such species as Yellow-breasted Chat and Spotted Towhee, and then we drove to Echo Lake via Evergreen and the Squaw Pass road, arriving at about 5 AM. After spending considerable time at and above Echo Lake, we drove slowly down Chicago Creek to Idaho Springs, where we stopped for breakfast. Next stop was at Genesee Mountain Park, where it started raining. We then drove to Golden, where we stopped at a stream. Next stop was east of Golden, at Clear Creek and McIntyre Road, where high winds caused most land birds to take cover. Next we visited Red Rocks Park, with light rain, and then Turkey Creek Canyon, where both wind and rain interfered with birding. Little Turkey Creek was passed by, as we were far behind schedule, but just below there we covered a grove unsuccessfully for Long-eared Owls. Next, at Bear Creek, we searched for and found an Indigo Bunting. Marston Lake, which we circled, was next, then Bowles, Upper Tule, Johnson, Patrick and Lower Tule lakes. From there we drove out Parker Road to the Chapins' and a snack, then north to the Mile-high lakes and Barr Lake, where we were about four hours behind last year's schedule, arriving at Barr Lake at dusk. The last stop was after dark, a fruitless one at the Tree Claim on the way back to Denver.

The total species count for the day was 119, as compared with 143 in 1953 (5 observers) and 119 in 1952(2 observers). (See April 1954 NOTES, Page 1.) Total species for the three years is 162, of which 92 were recorded all three years, 33 two years and 37 one year. Six species: Peregrine Falcon, Long-billed Curlew, Three-toed Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Mockingbird and Indigo Bumting were found only this year.

It was evident throughout the day that the Spring was much further advanced than on the same date the past few years and that the peak of migration had passed some days earlier. The Squaw Pass road was open; such birds as the Warbling Vireo and Western Flycatcher were in their summer territory in the mountains, instead of still on the Plains. Extra time spent in the mountains and consequent late arrival on the Plains, plus the wind and rain, much reduced our expected "Plains Birds" total of both land and water birds.

If the entire area covered be divided into three sub-areas: mountains, dry plains and wet plains, and each species of the total possible list be assigned to its most likely sub-area, an estimate of the optimal time to be spent in each sub-area can be made. Such a calculation indicates that 25% of the day should be spent in the mountains, 42% in the dry plains and 33% in the wet plains. We actually spent 50%, 29% and 21% respectively. The adverse effect of the wind was greatest in the dry plains, as wind interferes relatively little with observation of water birds. With 150 species as a goal for the day's count, 37 should be found in the mountains, 63 in the dry plains and 50 in the wet plains. Actually we found 46 in the mountains, reflecting the extra time spent there and 36 in the dry and 37 in the wet plains.

Two suggestions for future spring counts might be mentioned here. One is that there should be two or more independent parties competing for the highest count in

the same locality. The other is that such a count should be State-wide, in which case parties at Grand Junction, Durango, Alamosa, Colorado Springs, Boulder, Fort Collins and other localities should participate. A Denver party might cover the mountains in the early morning, then drive during the middle of the day, when birding is poor, and reach Bonny Dam in mid-afternoon, to find eastern species such as Baltimore and Orchard Orioles and Crested Flycatchers before dark.

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## BIRDS OF THE SEASON

by D. M. Thatcher

Spring migration this year was somewhat earlier than usual due largely to above-normal temperatures in May, as indicated by the Spring Count described above. Bird observation was helped most perhaps by the snowstorm of April 30-May 1, the writer on May 1 finding a total of 45 species in northwest Denver, mostly at Sloan's, Berkeley and Rocky Mountain Lakes. Following are migration, early nesting and other dates reported. Many readers may have earlier or later dates,(the latter especially for winter residents) which we should appreciate receiving. (See also accompanying Weldona Notes and field trip reports.)

*Asterisk indicates scheduled Bird Club trip; SC, Spring Count; abbreviated localities: CC, Clear Creek east of Golden(McIntyre Rd.); FCI, Federal Correction Institute, west of Littleton; RR, Red Rocks Park; GM, Genesee Mountain Park.

Common Loon - 1 5/2*, 1 5/22(SC), 1 6/5* Marston Lake
Horned Grebe - several 5/2 Marston Lake*
Western Grebe - 1 5/7 Sloan's Lake(DT)
Snowy Egret - 1 5/6 N. of Arvada, 5 apparently nesting 5/8 Standley L.(JD,MD); 2 5/12 Westminster(DC)
American Bittern - heard 4/26 CC(JD,MD); 2 or more 5/8,9,22(JD,MD,DT)
Mallard - nesting in Magpie nest at height of about 20 ft.CC(JD,MD)4/27
Blue-winged Teal - pair 5/2, near FCI*
Cinnamon Teal - pair 5/2 near FCI*, 2 5/5 Twin Lakes(Leyden)(JD,MD)
Swainson's Hawk - 1 5/8 Welby*
Osprey - 1 5/1 Berkely L.(DMT); 2 5/2 Marston L.*
Peregrine Falcon - 1 5/2 Marston L.*; 1 5/22 Johnson L.(SC)
Virginia Rail - CC 5/8 (JD,MD); 2 5/16(DMT)
Sora - CC heard 5/4, 8(JD,MD), 2 5/9(DMT)
American Coot - carrying nest mat'l 4/29, 2 tiny young 5/25 Fed. Cent.(DMT)
Snowy Plover- 1 5/1 Rky Mtn. Pk(DMT)
Ringed(Semi-palmated) Plover - 6 5/5 Twin Lakes(JD,MD)
Black-bellied Plover - 1 5/8 Twin Lakes(JD,MD)
Long-billed Curlew - 1 5/22 Mile-High Lakes(SC)
Spotted Sandpiper - 1 5/8 CC(JD,MD); 1 5/8 Welby*
Solitary Sandpiper 1 4/27 CC(JD,MD); 2 5/1 Rky. Mtn. L., 1 5/1 Berkeley L.(DMT)
Willet - 4 4/25 Standley L.(JD,MD); 7 5/2 Marston L.*; 3 5/3 Sloan's L.(DMT)
Lesser Yellowlegs - 2 5/1 Sloan's L.(DMT); many 5/5, 4 5/8 Twin Lakes(JD,MD)
Least Sandpiper - 5/1 1 Rky. Mtn. L., 1 Berkeley L.(DMT)
Western Sandpiper 1 5/1 RML(DMT); 3 5/5 Twin L.(JD,MD)
Marbled Godwit - 1 4/25 Twin L.(JD,MD); 11 5/2 Marston L.*; 2 5/3 Broomfield, 7 5/8 Twin Lakes(JD,MD)
Wilson's Phalarope - 13 5/1 Berkeley L.(DMT); 16 5/2 Marston L.*; 2 5/3-4 Sloan's L.(DMT); 25 5/5 Twin L.(JD,MD)
Bonaparte's Gull - 2 4/17 Horsetooth Res.(Ft.Coll.)(JD,MD)
Forster's Tern - 6 5/3, 2 5/4, 1 5/6, 5 5/30 Sloan's L.(DMT)
Black Tern - 119 5/22 Marston L.(SC)
Band-tailed Pigeon - 6 5/9 Little Turkey Creek, near Morrison(ALB)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo - 1 5/25 NWDenver (MC)
Screech Owl - heard 4/21 CC(JD,MD)
Short-eared Owl - 1 4/25 CC(JD,MD)

Poor-will - heard 5/12 RR(DeMents); 2 5/31 GM(Thatchers)
Common Nighthawk - 1 heard 5/18 Denver(JH,DMT)
White-throated Swift - 30 5/8 RR(first since 4/4)(DMT)
Broad-tailed Hummingbird - 2 males 5/8 RR (DMT) (DeMents)
Western Kingbird - 1 5/8 Parker Rd. (SE of Denver)(JC); 1 5/9 near Barr L.
Cassin's Kingbird - 1 5/8 Alamera Parkway E of Hogback (DMT)
Say's Phoebe - 1 4/24 Loveland (JD,MD); 1 5/1 Sloan's Lake (DMT)
Western Flycatcher - 1 5/2 RR*; 3 5/8 RR(DMT)
Western Wood Pewee - 5/18 NW Denver(M.Crow)
Violet-green Swallow - many 5/1 Sloan's & Berkeley L.(DMT); 9 5/1 Loveland L. (JD,MD)
Tree Swallow - 35 4/15 N. of Boulder(JD,MD); few 5/1 Sloan's & Berk.L.(DMT)
Bank Swallow - several 5/1 Sloan's & Berk.L(DMT)
Rough-winged Swallow - several Ft. Morgan* 6/13
Barn Swallow - 1 4/28 Lakewood(DMT); many 5/1 Sloan's & Berk.L.(DMT)
Cliff Swallow - many 5/1 Sloan's & Berk.L.(DMT)
Blue Jay - 1 5/4, 5/8 CC(JD,MD); heard 5/31 N.W.Denver(DMT)
Mountain Chickadee - egg shell and part of nest on ground beneath cavity 4/28 GM(DMT)
Brown Creeper - abandoned nest with 5 eggs 6/12 GM(DMT)
House Wren - 1 4/27 CC(JD,MD); 6 5/9 CC(DMT)
Marsh Wren - 3 4/4 CC*; 1 singing regularly until 5/9(gone before 5/16)(JD,MD, DMT)
Rock Wren - 2 4/27 Denver(AB)
Mockingbird - 1 5/8 Cherry Creek, SE of Denver(JC)
Catbird - 1 5/15,16 CC(DMT)
Brown Thrasher - 2 5/8 Welby*
Sage Thrasher - 1 4/24 Parker*
Hermit Thrush - 1 5/2 RR*; 1 5/2 FCI* Idaho Springs (SC)
Olive-backed Thrush - singing NW Denver 5/15-16(MP),5/17(M.Crow); 1 5/22
Western Bluebird - "thousands" 4/2, none 4/3 Broomfield(DC)
flock 4/25 GM(DMT); several 5/2 Morrison & Mar.Lake *
Mountain Bluebird - 2 5/1 Sloan's L., 14 5/1 Berk.L.(DMT); 5/1 Parker Rd.(JC)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - 1 5/2 RR*; 4 5/9 near Barr L.(DeMents)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 4 4/15 Boulder(JD,MD); 1 5/9 CC(DMT)
Water Pipit - 5/1 8 Sloan's L.,50 plus Berk.L.(DMT); 1 5/2 Marston L.*
Cedar Waxwing - 3 5/13, 17 NW Denver(DMT)
Loggerhead Shrike - 3 4/17 Loveland(JD,MD); 3 4/24 near Parker*
Common Starling - young out of nest 5/21 NW Denver(MP);
Red-eyed Vireo - 1 5/16-17 NW Denver(MP); 1 5/31 and daily thereafter(reported 6/17) NW Denver(M. Crow)
Warbling Vireo - 1 singing 5/16 NW Denver, 3 5/16 CC(DMT)
Orange-crowned Warbler - 4 5/2 RR*; 2 Sloan's L.(DMT) 5/3
Nashville Warbler - 2 4/25 CC(JD,MD)
Virginia's Warbler - 2 5/2 RR*; 4 5/8 RR(DMT); building nest 5/21 RR,nest destroyed before next visit 5/30(DMT)
Yellow Warbler - first heard 5/5 NW Denver(M.Crow,MP)
Myrtle Warbler - 2 4/15 Boulder(JD,MD); 1 4/24 near Parker*
Audubon's Warbler - 1 4/14 CC, 4 4/15 Boulder(JD,MD)
Ovenbird - 1 5/6-7 NW Denver(R.Wheeler); 1 heard 5/22 Echo L.(SM,BP)
MacGillivray's Warbler - 1 male 5/16,21 RR(DMT)
Common Yellowthroat - 3 5/4 CC(JD,MD); 1 5/8 RR(DMT); 6 5/9, abundant 5/16 CC(DMT)
Yellow-breasted Chat - 2 5/8 RR, 1 5/16 CC(DMT)
Black-capped(Filoclated) Warbler - 1 male 5/2 Marston L.*
American Redstart - 1 male 5/16,18 CC(JD,MD,DMT)
Bobolink - 1 male 5/17 Weldona(HR); 1m. 5/21 W.Steamboat Spgs.(WK)
Red-winged Blackbird - nest,3 eggs and 1 Cowbird egg 5/21 CC(DMT)
Bullock's Oriole - 1 5/8 Parker Rd(M[illegible]); 6 5/16 Mt Downer (MP)
Rusty Blackbird - 1 Boulder Creek on Route 287(JD,MD)
Brewer's Blackbird - nest on ground,6 eggs 5/31 near Evergreen(SM)
Purple Grackle(Bronzed Grow-blackbird) - 1 4/4 NW Denver(DMT)

Brown-headed Cowbird - 7 5/9, several 5/16, egg in Red-winged Blackbird nest 5/21 CC (DMT)
Western Tanager - 3 males 5/8 RR, late migrants (males) 5/29,31 NW Denver (DMT)
Black-headed Grosbeak - 1 5/14 NW Denver (MP)
Indigo Bunting - 1 male(where first recorded Colorado nest was found, 1953) 5/22 Morrison (SC); 1 m. 6/14 near Cherry Creek Dam (JF); 1 m. 6/20, 3 m. 6/27 Morrison (DMT); 1 m. 6/27 Deer Creek, near Phillipsburg (AB)
Lazuli Bunting - 1 4/25 CC(JD,MD); 1 5/1 Berk.L.(DMT)
Evening Grosbeak - "up to 40" 5/5 to 19(last report)Golden(JD,MD); 1 5/6 Sloan's L.(DMT)
Lesser Goldfinch - 1 4/18 NW Denver(DMT)
Green-tailed Towhee - 5/2 1 RR*; 1 Golden(JD,MD); 5 5/8 RR(DMT)
Spotted Towhee - 8 5/2 RR*, 24 5/8 RR(DMT)
Lark Bunting - 5/9 Barr L.(DeMents)
Savannah Sparrow - 2 5/1 Berk.L.(DMT)
Vesper Sparrow - 5/1 1 Berk.L.(DMT), large flocks Ft. Coll. & North(JD,MD)
Lark Sparrpw - 4/29 Parker Rd.(JC); many 5/1 W.of Ft.Collins(JD,MD)
Rufous-crowned Sparrow - 1 5/16 markings carefully noted, Bow Mar(EDM)
Cassin's Sparrow - 1 6/13 Weldona*
Pink-sided Oregon Junco - RR 2 5/2*; 2 5/8, 1 5/16 RR-last migrant(DMT)
Gray-headed Junco - building nest 4/28 GM; 15 5/2 RR*; 2 5/8 RR(last migrants) (DMT)
Chipping Sparrow - 4 4/25 GM(DMT); 4/25 NW Denver(first 1953 5/8)(M.Crow)
Clay-colored Sparrow - 2 5/8 Welby*
Brewer's Sparrow - 1 5/1 Berk.L.(DMT)
White-crowned Sparrow - common, singing 4/23 to 5/3, Denver & Lakewood(R. Woodward, LL, DMT); 2 5/16(Eastern subspecies, late migrants CC(DMT)

Contributors: A. Lang Baily(Davenport, Iowa), Arthur Bennett, Dorothy Chambers, John and Margaret Chapin, Mary Crow, John Flavin, James Humphrey, William Kirsher (Sacramento, Calif.), Leonard Licht, Edwin D. McKee, Sadie Morrison, Bess Phelan, Margaret Pritchett, Howard Rollin, D.M.Thatcher and family, Ruth Wheeler, Ruth Woodward and Mr. & Mrs. T. L. DeMent. --------

## WELDONA NOTES

by Howard Rollin

May 10, 1954-- This spring has been notable for the arrival of one early migrant individual, with no others being seen for a week or two or even two months, as was the Robin(Jan. 29 to March 29 for the second). The Cowbird was not seen again after April 9 and 10 until April 23; the first female May 2, and both sexes were fairly common by May 5.

The last Pink-sided Junco was noted April 19, a week later than any other year in the last eight. The last of March usually sees all the juncos gone. An added feature this year was one of the very rare Gray-headed Juncos, seen April 24; the only other record for it here is May 1-2, 1951. Altogether six forms of juncos were noted this year, an unusual number to see here.

Crow-blackbirds continued to arrive in small numbers, the most being seven, April 11; since that time one or two were noted on various days, the last April 30. Brewer's Blackbirds come in small numbers, the most(10 or 12) being noted about May 5 and the usual number is 5 or 6. Another unusual bird here was a Crow, April 28; it was quite tame and many of its feathers were recurved.

The first Vesper Sparrow came April 12. This species was next seen April 19; it became common next day and remained so until May 6; only one wasseen today. The next Mourning Dove, after the first(April 6) appeared April 16, then flocks of 2 Or 3; they were common by May 1 and are nesting now. McCown's Longspurs continued here

in small flocks of 6 to 12 until April 21. Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow was extremely rare this year, having been seen only April 23-24(2-3) and 25(3-4). The first Lark Bunting was noted April 25, the earliest date in 12 years, the next earliest being April 29, and it was not seen again until May 6, when it was common and singing everywhere; no females seen yet(May 10). The Lark Sparrow was seen first April 30 and May 2, one each time, and is fairly common now. The Clay-colored Sparrow was noted first April 30, again May 5 and 6, when there were 6 or 8; this bird is usually a rare migrant and small numbers only are seen. Brewer's Sparrow was noted first May 5 and was fairly common May 6; it nests commonly in the sage brush and small numbers are seen all summer; it has a lovely song, sometimes delivered on the wing somewhat like that of the Lark Bunting.

Loggerhead Shrikes have been around since first noted on April 9 and have a nest in a Mulberry bush, the first time they have nested here in at least 25 years.

Following are other birds noted here in the last month:

April 14 - Yellow-headed Blackbird; Pintail Duck, 4 along the creek, very rare here; Rough-legged Hawk, late date for it.
April 19 - Long-eared Owl, rare resident in the canyons
April 20 - Mallards still along creek; Rock Wren common.
April 21 - Long-billed Curlews calling, also May 9; Rough-winged Swallow, first and again on May 8; Pigeon Hawk, very dark.
April 26 - Cooper's Hawk, rare migrant or visitor; Myrtle Warbler
April 28 - Lewis Woodpecker; Barn Owl, a rare resident in the canyons and often nests.
May 5-6 - Blue Jay, a rare visitor
May 6 - Say's Phoebe has nest built, first egg; Horned Larks, young on the wing; Barn Swallow passed; one Spotted Towhee, a rare migrant generally; one Song Sparrow, a rare migrant
May 7 - One Bullock's Oriole.

June 13, 1954 - The birds continued to be erratic in their movements this year and some were noted only once(Sage Thrasher, Barn Swallow, Song Sparrow, House Wren) and some so far have not been noted at all(Brown Thrasher, Upland Plover, Chipping Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, Great Blue Heron, Green-tailed Towhee). One bird, not seen here before, a male Bobolink in full song, was here briefly May 17. It is always a thrill to see a new bird about one's own home.

The Western Kingbird was first noted May 13, again May 15 and was common by the 27th, with one pair apparently going to nest here. The rare Cassin's Kingbird was here briefly May 15; the other spring record was May 12, 1951 when two were noted briefly. Eastern Kingbird was first seen May 27 and not again until June 12 when there were two. The Mockingbird was first noted May 11, 2 when again seen the 14th; two pairs singing, one at the house and one in the canyons by the 24th of May; the former is building a nest by the house. Last year 6 pairs nested in the canyons nearby.

Bullock's Oriole again May 14 but remains very rare and seen only occasionally. Clay-colored Sparrows continued to be about the buildings until May 23, nesting nearby June 9. Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow was last seen May 19 and was very rare, only about 10 having been seen this spring. Goldfinches continue here, although very unusual; they are feeding on last year's sunflower seeds of which there was an overabundance. Female Lark Buntings were not seen until May 15, at which time they were here in force. They are nesting and now have young(June 9). One Vesper Sparrow on May 19. Yellow-headed Blackbirds May 15, 3 of each sex. None seen since. Rough-winged Swallows were common May 13th; they nest in the canyons in small numbers. One Cliff Swallow was seen May 17th. One Hermit Thrush was seen in the canyons May 23; it was very dark in color, appearing almost black but with the glasses ahowed a very dark brown. One was seen last year, also.

The Say's Phoebes whose nesting I mentioned last month(above) lost their eggs, as did the Loggerhead Shrikes. I thought that the Shrikes might be responsible; however, Blue Jays have been about at various times and I saw them looking again for the Phoebe's nest and searching for other nests. The Shrikes attacked the Jays furiously whenever about and tried to drive them away. An interesting side light on the Phoebes is their re-use of the old nest by tearing it down from the shed where it was originally and moving it into the chicken coop on a ledge over the door.

Warblers were very rare. I have seen only the Myrtle(mentioned last month) and the Yellow here once(May 27). Nighthawks were first seen May 29 and again May 30, but very uncommon until June 13. One female Mt. Bluebird was here June 1; a very late date here. Killdeer have eggs or young at this date. Red-winged Blackbirds (one or two) stray in now and then but stay only briefly.

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## BIRDING ON THE CENTRAL PLAINS EXPERIMENTAL RANGE

by Arthur Bennett

In Pettingill's "Guide To Bird Finding West Of The Mississippi" in the chapter on Colorado, under Greeley,is described birding on the Central Plains Experimental Range. This Range is about twenty miles north of Greeley on Route 85, or seven miles north of Nunn. A sign indicates the road into the Range leading east from Route 85. About three miles from Route 85 a double fence row leads north. A short way up this double fence row there are gates entering the northwest and northeast sections. It is stated that in the northeast section, by following the wheel tracks across the section, one should find Mountain Plover and McCown's Longspurs. Also, there is good birding in other parts of the Experimental Range.

As I had never seen any Mountain Plover or McCown's Longspurs, after attending Sunrise Services on Easter Sunday, April 18, Mrs. Bennett packed a picnic lunch and we headed for Greeley. North of Nunn, we found the sign denoting the Experimental Range and turned east into the Range. After we drove about a half mile, some birds lit in the field along the road and, upon investigation, we found they were McCown's Longspurs. In a short distance several other pairs were encountered. At a little over two miles from Route 85, Mrs. Bennett spied two birds near the road which turned out to be a pair of Mountain Plover. The Plover came within fifty feet of the car, and we had good views of them. At the double fence row we turned north and I walked into the northwest section a short way, but did not find any more Plover or Longspurs. Then we continued on the entrance road for another two miles or so to a water tank. Here we saw more Longspurs, also Horned Larks and Killdeer coming in to drink. The wind arose and the blowing dust drove us away from the water tank. After exploring a few more spots, we ate our picnic lunch and then headed back for Denver, well satisfied with finding the Longspurs and Plover. Someday I hope to return and watch the birds coming to the water tank, as more interesting birds might be seen.

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## BIRD TRIP IN NEBRASKA

by Arthur Bennett

On a trip to Nebraska, May 10, to look for Greater Prairie Chickens, I located some early in the morning near North Platte. They were found where listed by Pettingill, pages 337-338. To reach the booming grounds I went north from North Platte on the road to Stapleton. At about three miles from town I turned left on the Tryon road for about six miles. Here the road takes a sharp right turn and goes west. North of the turn is a small cemetery and across the road not far from the cemetery is a school house. On reaching this spot at 4 A. M. I parked the car and got out to

listen. Meadowlarks were making considerable noise, so it was hard to detect any faint bird calls. Several times a sound gave me a start. A Ring-necked Pheasant called, Mourning Doves cooed and a cow bawled in the distance. Then came a very faint call which really suggested a Prairie Chicken's boom. So I set off on foot, east from the cemetery for the sand hills, on the way passing south of a small woodlot at the foot of the hills. After walking about a half mile, I heard calls which were definitely Prairie Chicken calls and another half mile brought me within sight of the Chickens. They were silhouetted against the sky upon the hill. There were at least ten males strutting, booming, cackling and making short flights up into the air and down again. It was fascinating to watch all the antics and hear their unmistakable calls. I walked to within one hundred yards of the Chickens before they began to startle, then retreated so as not to scare the birds from their booming ground. Before leaving, I plainly saw the air sacs on the sides of the heads and necks of the Chickens.

On the way back to the car, I went through the woodlot. Saw many birds including Upland Plover, Horned Owl, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Blue Jay, Magpie, Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Olive-backed Thrush, Starling, Audubon's and Black-poll Warblers, Red-winged Blackbird, Lark Bunting, Vesper, Lark, Chipping, Song and Clay-colored Sparrows.

The road from town out to the cemetery also furnished good birding. There were marshes, wet fields and small ponds as well as dry fields. Here, I found Purple Martins and many other species.

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## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The April 24 trip to the prairies east of PARKER was attended by four members, led by John Flavin. Birds seen were of 34 species, including a dark Ferruginous Hawk, a pair of Golden Eagles, two Burrowing Owls, Horned Owl, Sage Thrasher, and 3 Loggerhead Shrikes. Seven antelope were seen.

Three members made the trip to RED ROCKS PARK and MARSTON LAKE, May 2. The weather was cloudy, with temperature near freezing and bushes and ground snow-covered. At Red Rocks 23 species were seen, including 2 or 3 Golden Eagles, and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Thirty-two species were found at Marston Lake, of which the most unusual were Marbled Godwit(11), Willet(7), Wilson's Phalarope(16), Osprey(2), Peregrine Falcon(1 or 2) and Common Loon(1). The day's total was 57 species.

May 8, 14 members made the trip along the South Platte River northeast of WELBY, led by Ruth Wheeler. The 36 species found included a pair of Brown Thrashers, two Clay-colored Sparrows and a Swainson's Hawk.

The trip to BONNY DAM and RESERVOIR and the surrounding Management Area, in eastern Colorado near the Kansas line, was made May 15 and 16 by 16 people who travelled and birded in 6 different parties(one couple May 14 and 15). As the trip was made principally to observe eastern species seldom or never found in the vicinity of Denver, it was very successful. Mr. Robert Poley, Resident Caretaker for the Colorado Game and Fish Department, and Mr. Earl M. Meyers, caretaker for the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation were very helpful.

One party, John and Margaret Douglass, listed 103 species; the others reported 70 to 77 species each. The total for the entire group was 139. Eastern or unusual species seen were as follows: Green Heron(R. Olsen), Glossy Ibis(S. Morrison,P.Caswell. May have been Whitefaced Ibis, but no white was noted.), Bob-white, Ringed (Semi-palmated) Plover(John and Margaret Douglass), Sanderling, Black-necked Stilt, Barn Owl, Chimney Swift(R.Glover), Crested Flycatcher, Wood Pewee(species?)(J. Humphrey), Veery, Bell's Vireo(J.H.), Yellow-throated Vireo(JD,MD), Black-and-White Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles(both numerous), Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Grasshopper Sparrow(S.M.), Baird's Sparrow(R.O.), White-throated Sparrow.

The trip to PLUM CREEK, near Sedalia, May 22, led by Sadie Morrison, was attended by 17 people. The party found 37 species, but no unusual ones.

Twelve people attended the June 5 trip to MARSTON and BOWLES LAKES, June 5, a warm, windy day. Forty-six species were found, including a White-faced Ibis. More than 100 Canvasbacks were an unusual number for so late in the season.

The trip to FORT MORGAN and WELDONA on June 13 was made by ten people. At Fort Morgan, we met Edward Hellstern, who conducted a tour of nearby birding places, along the South Platte River and two small reservoirs. A Least Bittern which perched in full view in cattails was the outstanding find. Other interesting birds were a Cedar Waxwing and several Rough-winged Swallows, Brown Thrashers and Blue Jays, the last both in town and along the river. After a visit to the Indian Museum at Fort Morgan, largely the work of Mr. Hellstern, and his interesting rock collection, we ate lunch on his lawn. Then, with the Hellsterns, we drove to Weldona in a severe(to us) dust storm and met Howard Rollin at his ranch. There we were shown his collection of Indian relics and his excellent bird paintings. Birds at the ranch included a Mockingbird(nesting in a bush by the door), immature Horned Larks, and a Cassin's Sparrow which we found shortly after leaving the house to return home. Several antelope were observed across the canyon northeast of the ranch. During the entire trip 49 species of birds were seen.

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## NEW OFFICERS

At the May meeting, the following officers were elected for 1954-1955:

President: John Flavin
Vice-President: John Douglass
Recording Secretary: Mrs. T. L. DeMent
Corresponding Secretary: Catherine Hurlbutt
Treasurer: Leonard Licht
Directors(2 years): James Humphrey and Ben Pfretzschner

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## NOTICE

The Calendar on the last page of this issue lists a field trip for August 8 which was not included in the Summer Schedule mailed you a few weeks ago.

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## NOTICE

For the information of the new members, the Club's year for activities and business begins in September.

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CALENDAR FOR JULY - SEPTEMBER 1954

July

10 (Sat.) 6 AM Field Trip - Franktown-Castle Rock area - John Flavin, leader (PL5-1744) - meet Speer & Downing - bring lunch - transportation, 50¢

18 (Sun.) 1 PM Field Trip - Devil's Head & Rampart Range Road - John Chapin, leader (PL5-0862) meet Alameda W of Broadway - transp. 75¢

24 (Sat.) 7 AM Field Trip - Echo & Summit Lakes - Robert Glover, leader (PE3-8757) meet Sheridan S of Colfax - bring lunch - transp. 75¢

August

8 (Sun.) 8 AM Field Trip - Barr Lake & vicinity - John Chapin, leader - (PL5-0862) meet parking lot north of Museum of Natural History (City Park) - bring lunch - transportation 50¢

September

12 (Sun.) 8 AM Field Trip - Loveland Pass - Ruth Wheeler (GL5-3924) & Sadie Morrison (MA3-0840), leaders - meet Sheridan south of Colfax - bring lunch, warm clothing - transportation, 75¢

18 (Sat.) 6:30 AM Field Trip - St. Mary's Glacier - John Flavin, leader (PL5-1744) meet Public Library (Civic Center) - bring lunch, warm clothing transportation, 75¢

26 (Sun.) 6:30 AM Field Trip - Genesee Mountain Park - Donald Thatcher, leader (GL5-7479) - meet Library (Civic Center) - transp. 50¢

28 (Tues.) 8 PM Regular Meeting - Denver Museum of Natural History

Please call leader if possible if attending field trips. Transportation charge is suggested amount for those riding with others.

COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 2 No. 1 July-August-September 1954

# 1954 BREEDING BIRD POPULATION STUDIES

by Donald M. Thatcher

In the October, 1953, issue of Colorado Bird Notes was a description of three breeding bird population studies made by the writer and other members of the Club during the years 1951 to 1953 in Genesee Mountain Park, in the foothills about 15 miles west of Denver. These studies have been repeated during the 1954 breeding season. For those who may not have received the earlier summary, a description and account is being repeated here.

These studies are conducted as part of a nationwide project of the National Audubon Society and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, who publish the results annually in the December "Audubon Field Notes", this season being the 18th. During the past nine years, an average of about 32 studies has been published each year, of which average only four were made in the West. Briefly, these studies are ecological studies intended to determine the species and numbers of birds breeding in known areas of various uniform habitats, especially those typical of large regions. Repetition of these studies over several years should indicate changes in bird populations resulting from changing environmental conditions, including climatic variations, or from cyclic fluctuations in numbers of the various species. Field work consists essentially of locating on a new copy of a map of a study area for each of several trips all birds seen or heard, together with notes on their species, sex and activity. At the close of the season , the data from all trips are transferred to a separate map sheet for each species, and the probable territory of each pair of birds is thus determined. Locating nests is not necessary, but is very helpful if the observers have time and patience for searching and watching.

Two of the areas chosen for study are of 20 acres each in the approximately 90-year-old forest stands on the north slope of Genesee Mountain. One is of nearly pure Lodgepole Pine, typical of the lower part of the Canadian life zone, and the other is principally of Douglas Fir and typical of the Transition life zone at its upper limits. The third area, of 67 acres, is of practically pure, all-aged Ponderosa Pine forest, 50 acres of southerly slope or level and 17 acres of northerly slopes, and is typical of the greater part of the Transition life zone. The first two areas were studied during four seasons and the other during three.

The accompanying tables are summaries of the breeding bird populations of the three areas, with the species arranged in the order of their abundance, as averaged for the three or four seasons of study. Fractional pairs(or birds) may be reconciled by considering the numbers as representing territories, which may lie only partly within the study area, rather than as birds. A plus (+) indicates less than half a territory or pair. Following the numbers of each species are the numbers of nests (N) or of pairs with young(Y) noted.

The following assisted the writer in the field, principally in the Ponderosa Pine: Lang Baily, Phyllis Caswell, John Chapin, John and Margaret Douglass, John Flavin, Sadie Morrison, Bess Phelan, George Scipli, Joseph Taylor and Hazel and Donna Thatcher.

## Lodgepole Pine Forest

| | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Audubon's Warbler | 4½ | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Mountain Chickadee | 2 (1Y) | 3 | 2 | 2½ |
| Gray-headed Junco | 1½ (1Y) | 2½ | 3 (2Y) | 1 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | - | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Brown Creeper | 1 (1N) | 1 | 1 (2N) | 1 (1N) |
| Hermit Thrush | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 (1N) |
| Pine Siskin | 1 (1N) | 2 | - | 1 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 1 | - | 1 (1N) | ½ (1N) |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | 1 | - | - | - |
| Red Crossbill | 1 | - | - | - |
| Hairy Woodpecker | - | ½ | - | ½ |
| Broad-tailed Hummingbird | - | - | - | ½ |
| Western Flycatcher | - | ½ | - | - |
| Cooper's Hawk | † | - | - | - |
| Am. Magpie | - | - | † | † |
| Am. Crow | - | - | † (1Y) | - |
| Number of species 16 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 11 |
| Number of pairs or territorial males — on area | 14 | 14½ | 15 | 14 |
| Number of pairs or territorial males — per 100 acres | 70 | 73 | 75 | 70 |

## Douglas Fir Forest

| | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Audubon's Warbler | 3½ (1Y) | 4 | 2½ | 5½ (1N) |
| Gray-headed Junco | 2 (1Y) | 2 (1Y) | 1½ (1Y) | 3 |
| Mountain Chickadee | 1½ (1Y) | 2 | 2 (1N) | 2 (1N) |
| Hermit Thrush | 1 (1Y) | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Brown Creeper | ½ | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | - | 1 | 1½ | - |
| Pine Siskin | - | 1 | 1 | ½ |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Am. Magpie | 1 (1N) | - | † | - |
| Western Flycatcher | ½ | - | ½ | - |
| Pygmy Nuthatch | - | - | 1 (1N) | - |
| Am. Robin | - | - | 1 (1Y) | - |
| Western Tanager | - | ½ | ½ | - |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | ½ | - | - | - |
| Cooper's Hawk | † | - | - | - |
| Red-tailed Hawk | - | - | † | - |
| Number of species 16 | 9 | 9 | 13 | 7 |
| Number of pairs or territorial males — on area | 10½ | 13½ | 13½ | 15 |
| Number of pairs or territorial males — per 100 acres | 53 | 68 | 68 | 75 |

Ponderosa Pine Forest

| | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pygmy Nuthatch | 6 (3N) | 10½ (6N) | 12½ (5N) |
| Gray-headed Junco | 6 (2N,3Y) | 8½ (3Y) | 7 (2Y) |
| Mountain Chickadee | 5½ (5N) | 4½ (4N) | 3 (1N) |
| Am. Robin | 4 (3N,2Y) | 3 (2Y) | 5½ (1N,1Y) |
| Audubon's Warbler | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| Chipping Sparrow | 4 (1N,2Y) | 2½ (2Y) | 3½ (1N,2Y) |
| Western Wood Pewee | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Steller's Jay | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Western Bluebird | 2 (1N) | 2 (2N) | 1½ (1N) |
| Violet-green Swallow | 1 | 2 (2N) | 2 (2N) |
| Pine Siskin | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Solitary Vireo | ½ | 2 (1N) | 2 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 1½ (1N) | 1 (1N) | 1½ (1N) |
| Western Tanager | 1 | 2 | 1 (1N) |
| Red Crossbill | 3 (3N) | 1 | - |
| Western Flycatcher | - | 1½ | 2 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Townsend's Solitaire | 1 | 1 (1N) | 1 |
| Broad-tailed Hummingbird | 1 | 1 | ½ |
| Williamson's Sapsucker | 1 (1N) | 1½ (2N) | - |
| Hermit Thrush | 1 (1Y) | 1 | - |
| Common Nighthawk | - | 1 | - |
| House Wren | - | 1 | - |
| Virginia's Warbler | - | 1 | - |
| Cassin's Finch | - | ½ | ½ |
| Red-tailed Hawk | ½ | - | - |
| Mourning Dove | - | - | ½ |
| Horned Owl | - | - | ½ |
| Green-tailed Towhee | - | ½ | - |
| Blue Grouse | - | 1 (1Y) | - |
| Number of species 30 | 21 | 27 | 21 |
| Number of pairs or territorial males { on area | 49 | 61 | 54½ |
| Number of pairs or territorial males { per 100 acres | 74 | 92 | 82 |

* * * * *

N O T I C E

With the September meeting, we start a new Bird Club year. A few members are still in arrears with their 1953-4 dues (due September, 1953). Because of the expense and labor involved in issuing the Notes, we regret that this is the last issue we can send those who are unpaid for last year.

## WELDONA NOTES

by Howard Rollin

August 22, 1954 -- First, a correction for the June notes: On page 5 (May-June issue), last paragraph, change Clay-colored Sparrow to Lark Sparrow. As far as I know, the Clay-colored does not nest here, but, as it comes early in August, it may nest not far away. This year it was noted first August 6 and again August 14, and is present now in small numbers. This year it was about a week earlier than usual.

When Mr. Bennett was here with the Club, June 13, he asked about the Mountain Plover. At that time, none had ever been seen here, but since then a pair was found nesting about one-half mile south of the house. They raised four young and were very tame, moving only a few feet from the tractor.

The Blue Grosbeak arrived June 16 and nested along the creek. A flood the last of July apparently destroyed the nest, as no young were seen and the adults disappeared soon after that. Two males were seen about the buildings, July 16-17; they were busy feeding on grasshoppers in the fields.

Goldfinches were here in small flocks throughout the summer. Lark buntings started flocking in small numbers July 1 and slowly increased to large flocks in late July. Today (Aug. 22) they are almost all gone. The Lark Sparrows are also nearly all gone. The early departure of so many birds is no doubt due to the food situation. Young of Lark Bunting and Brewer's and Lark Sparrows were especially numerous. The first Vesper Sparrow was noted August 2, an early date, and again August 19.

The Sage Thrasher was not seen after April 8 until June 29, when one was singing in the pasture west of the buildings; since then there have been one or two about. The resident Mockingbirds left August 6; they raised at least two young successfully.

The Western Kingbirds which appeared to be going to nest here did not stay. They were not seen again until August 6 and are still rare, only one or two being seen at a time; they are present at this time. The Eastern Kingbird was first seen here july 21; one or two have been noted since then, but they remain unusually rare. The Say's Phoebes successfully raised four young this year, but they did not nest a second time. No doubt lack of food was the reason, as they raise two broods when there are abundant moths; this year and 1952 are the only two of the last 20 years in which two broods were not raised! Another pair in the canyons raised a family, also. An Eastern Phoebe stopped here August 18, the first since August 21, 1938.

Bullock's Oriole is another species which has been rare; the first seen this summer was one noted August 7. Cowbirds, adults and immatures, first flocked July 7, with larger flocks July 9; none have been seen since August 11. One male Yellow-headed Blackbird was here July 19.

An unusual feature of the summer was thousands of Franklin's Gulls resting or feeding in the fields. We often see thousands flying about, but not at rest on the ground. They were first noted July 18 and since that date have been more or less common; they were first noted on the ground, August 2.

Only two Great Blue Herons were seen this year, one July 31 and another about August 15. An unidentified Night Heron was seen August 18, along the creek.

Mourning Doves had an unusually good year. They occur in flocks of as many as 50, unusual here, and flocks of three to a dozen or more are quite common.

One Sparrow Hawk was noted August 3. Swainson's Hawks are fairly common. Marsh Hawks are common; it is unusual to see them in flocks of 7 or 8, but again, this year is an exceptional one.

A pair of Burrowing Owls nested near here, the first one in 10 or 12 years. Barn Owls raised 6 or 8 young in the canyons; one that had fallen from the nest had an extra toe on each foot, next to the hind one.

Two rare visitors here this summer were a White-breasted Nuthatch, which spent 3 or 4 days, and a Broad-tailed Hummingbird which paused briefly. Five or six warblers were about August 7th; I am not certain of the species but believe they were the Orange-crowned. A Pileolated Warbler was seen today(Aug. 22).

Nighthawks are still here, but none apparently nested anywhere close. The Killdeer that raised young here left as soon as the young could fly; only an occasional one has been seen here since.

We have enjoyed an unusually wet summer here and this place has been green and the grass unusually good, while others just a mile or two to the south or north have been burned to a crisp. We averaged 2 inches of rain for every month except August which lacks a couple of tenths so far. There have been no grasshoppers and other insects have been scarce; this probably accounts for the unusual bird populations.

I am glad to have your verification of the Cassin's Sparrow as they were very common here for a while in June, 1943.

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BEAR RIVER MIGRATORY BIRD REFUGE

About 15 miles to the west of Brigham City, Utah, is Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, near the northeastern part of Great Salt Lake. One afternoon in early September we drove out to this refuge over a hard-surfaced road bordered by mud flats and marshes.

Along the way we stopped to watch a Prairie Falcon on a telephone pole, and pelicans, ducks, herons, egrets, and sandpipers in the ditches along the road, never dreaming what surprises awaited us at the Refuge. As we approached the parking lot at Headquarters we were surprised to see thousands of Swallows - Barn, Bank and Rough winged - lining the telephone wires for about a quarter of a mile. Hearing queer noises coming from the drainage ditches nearby, we went to investigate and found many Western Grebes. The young grebes, almost as large as their parents, had not yet ceased to bog for food and often were to be seen "loping" along on the water with neck outstretched in noisy pursuit of the parents.

At Headquarters we found that the gates close at 5 P.M.; it was now 3:15 P.M. We were given permission to drive 12 miles around one of the five units of the refuge. Since the road is on top of artificial dikes, one has an excellent vantage point from which to watch bird life in the surrounding marshes and mud flats. At first we followed along a drainage ditch and saw Coot, Green-winged Teal, Pintail, Gadwall, Mallards, two Pied-bill Grebes and dozens of Western Grebes. We then came to a large shallow lake and open mud flats. To the left were scores of Black-necked Stilts and Avocets, also Killdeer, one Greater Yellowlegs and numerous sandpipers which we did not identify. Snowy Egrets were so near that we could see the "yellow slippers" without the aid of glasses. Great Blue Herons watched us as they stalked away, but did not seem to be much afraid. Several Marbled Godwits were close enough for us to see the color of their bills as they waded about searching for food in the mud. Some distance from the road we could see seven adult White Pelicans. To the right we saw hundreds of ibis(presumably White-faced Ibis although none was noted which had the white on the face at this time) busily feeding in the shallow water, and beyond them in deeper water was a flock of at least two dozen Pelicans. Many appeared to be rather grayish and we decided they were young birds. Thirty minutes gone and we had traveled two miles!

We next came to deeper water where we saw many Wilson's Phalarope and ducks - Mallards, Pintail, and one Redhead. Sandpipers, among them Least, Baird's and Western, ran along the shore among Avocets and more Black-necked Stilts. In some parts of the marsh the water-level was apparently considerably lower than it had been previously, for numbers of large fish lay dead in the shallow waters, furnishing food aplenty for the colonies of gulls. Sparrows flitted across the road, but we could not take time to look for field marks. Soon we came to some mud flats that were literally alive with small wading birds. Something startled them and they took to the air - a sight we will long remember. As they wheeled and turned we got the effect of clouds of popper and salt. They soon settled down not far from the car. We identified Sanderlings and Baird's, Least, Western and Spotted Sandpipers, but our time was up and we reluctantly headed for the gate.

This was truly birding deluxe. The permit to drive around the area instructs visitors to remain in their cars...and in this comfort one can study many of the birds at close range. Any who are in the area will find it most rewarding to take time (possibly a full day) to visit this refuge.

--Sadie Morrison and Phyllis Caswell

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## BIRDS OF THE SEASON

by D. M. Thatcher

Following are some unusual occurrences, nesting notes and early fall migration dates:

Least Bittern - 1 6/1 4 miles N of Westcliffe (JD,MD)
Swainson's Hawk - flock of 60 or more 9/11 between Watkins & Bennett (Rt. US 40) (JT,LT,DT)
Peregrine Falcon - 2 8/28 Colorado National Monument (DT)
White-tailed Ptarmigan - young several days old 7/3 Sawatch Range at 13,700 ft. (CW); 3 newly-hatched young, 1 egg at nest 7/8 Loveland Pass, 20 feet from Continental Divide (JT,DT); young about 2 weeks old 7/15 near Trail Ridge Road, Rocky Mountain National Park (AMB,DT)
Sage Hen - 1 female 6/5 5 mi. N of Alamosa (JD,MD)
Sandhill Crane - 23 9/20 N of Arvada & Westminster (RO)
Mountain Plover - 1 8/15 Central Plains Experimental Range, N of Nunn (DT)
Band-tailed Pigeon - 8 6/20 (LG), 1 8/8 (DT) Genesee Mountain Park
Black-billed Cuckoo- 1 7/14 near Daniels Park (RJN)
Black Swift - 1 6/24 ampitheatre,Ouray; 12 6/25 Silverton (JD,MD)
Rufous Hummingbird - first appearance 7/19, 2 about 9/20 Daniels Park (WVR,RJN); 2 8/21 Palmer Lake (JC,JF,DT)
Calliope Hummingbird - 1 8/2 Daniels Park (WVR,RJN)
Red-headed Woodpecker - family of 4 immatures 9/11,12 Bonny Reservoir (JT,LT,DT)
Eastern Kingbird - flock of 8 9/11 near Bonny Reservoir (JT,LT,DT)
Cassin's Kingbird - nest, 4 young in garage 7/13 Golden (JD,MD)
Scrub Jay - first fall appearance 8/20 Littleton (RJN); 1 9/14 NW Denver (DT)
White-breasted Nuthatch - almost daily 8/20 to present (9/23) NW Denver (DT)
Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1 8/27 (DT); 1 9/16 (HT) NW Denver
Carolina Wren - 1 8/7 Palmer Lake (DT) (See note next page)
Sage Thrasher - 1 7/29 ,8/6 Littleton (RJN)
Hermit Thrush - nest nearly complete 6/7, 4 eggs 7/4, 3 large young 7/25 Genesee Mountain Park (DT)
Townsend's Warbler - 1 9/6 Genesee Mtn. Park (DT)
Macgillivray's Warbler - 1 9/14 NW Denver (DT)
American Redstart - 1 female or imm. male 9/11,12 Bonny Res. (JT,LT,DT)
Western Tanager - 1 singing 7/23-25, heard calling almost daily to present (9/24) NW Denver (DT); 1 9/12 Bonny Dam (JT,LT,DT)
Dickcissel - 1 8/8 SE Denver (JF)
Evening Grosbeak - 8 8/27, 20 8/31 Golden (JD,MD); 1 9/16 NW Denver (DT)

Brown-capped Rosy Finch - nest-building completed 6/19 Loveland Pass (RJN)
Green-tailed Towhee - nests, 6/4 2 eggs near Gardner; 6/5 4 eggs near La Veta Pass (JD,MD)
Baird's Sparrow - 1 6/1 4 mi. N of Westcliffe (JD,MD)
Lark Sparrow - 2 8/1 Pinecliffe (elev. 8000) (RW)
White-crowned Sparrow - many 9/12 Clear Creek E of Golden (SM)
Lincoln's Sparrow - 1 9/18 Red Rocks Park (DT)

Contributors: A. M. Bailey, John Chapin, John and Margaret Douglass, John Flavin, Leo Galloway, Sadie Morrison, R. J. Niedrach, Ray Olson, Joseph and Loretta Taylor, Donald and Hazel Thatcher, Walker VanRiper, Clyde Weatherford, Ruth Woodward.

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## CAROLINA WREN AT PALMER LAKE

While birding along a willow-covered stream-bottom at Pine Crest, at Palmer Lake, at about 9 A.M., August 7, 1954, I heard a song which I recognized as something very familiar, yet new to me in Colorado. After a short search, I found an old friend, a Carolina Wren, and was able to observe it at 25 feet. Its reddish-brown upper parts, yellowish underparts, white line over the eye and short, square tail were readily apparent. As that species was practically a door-yard bird during my seven years in Virginia, I am positive of the identification. Two weeks later, John Chapin, John Flavin and I searched the same place in hope of finding the bird again, but without success. R. T. Peterson notes in his "Field Guide to Western Birds" that the Carolina Wren has been found in Montana, but I am unable to find any record of the species for Colorado.

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## CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 1954

September
28 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification - John Chapin
8 PM Regular meeting - Wildlife film "By the Side of the Road", by Carl Harris. Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History (Please use north (employees') entrance)

October
9 (Sat.) 1 PM Field Trip - Barr Lake - Ruth Wheeler, leader (GL5-3924) - meet Colorado Blvd. & Montview. Transportation, 50¢
10 (Sun.) 6:30 AM Field Trip - Barr Lake - John Flavin, leader (PL5-1744) - meet Colorado Blvd. & Montview. Transp. 50¢. Bring lunch.
24 (Sun.) 7:30 AM Field Trip - Marston Lake - Clark Fortner, leader - meet at Main Library, Civic Center. Transp. 50¢. Bring lunch.
26 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification
8 PM Regular Meeting
Denver Mus. Nat. Hist.

November
7 (Sun.) 7:30 AM Field Trip - Genesee Mountain - Donald Thatcher, leader (GL5-7479) meet Main Library, Civic Center. Transp. 50¢
13 (Sat.) 10 AM Field Trip - Waterton & vicinity - Jim Humphrey, leader (GR7-3800) - meet Alameda Ave, ½ block west of Broadway. Transp. 50¢. Bring lunch.

Week-ends, rest of November and all of December, scouting trips for Christmas Count. Plans to be announced later.

Please call leader if possible if attending field trips. Transportation charge is suggested amount for those riding with others.

COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 2 No. 2 October 1954

## WELDONA NOTES

by Howard Rollin

October 3, 1954-- The resident birds continued to move southward from August 22, the date of the last notes, and some species no doubt will be seen no more this year.

The Swainson's Hawk is still here, but becoming very infrequent. The Rough-legged Hawk has been here about one week. Also present is a large, very white-breasted hawk that appears to be a race of the Red-tail; they often sit on the ground and their white breasts show up plainly for a quarter to half mile, without glasses; and I can see no red on the tails(Krider's Red-tail or Ferruginous? Ed.) The Golden Eagle has been here uncommonly all summer and now appears more frequently than earlier; it was common throughout the summer a year ago. Marsh Hawks are frequent; they usually stay all year. A large hawk, Sept. 24 may have been an Osprey; but was not seen well enough for identification. A Peregrine Falcon was here briefly August 23, the first in 20 or more years; the Prairie Falcon, always rare, is seen occasionally. One or two Sparrow Hawks are seen frequently.

The Killdeer left after their young were running about, only an occasional one being seen or heard after that time; the last was seen September 26, which may not be the last date, as some years they occur in late October. An unidentified sandpiper was seen August 24. The unusually large flocks of Mourning Doves mentioned last monthdwindled rapidly and the last Dove was seen September 27.

The five-toed young Barn Owl mentioned last month was found dead near one of the granaries about a week ago; it had not recovered from its wing injury. The Barn Owl is common now about the canyons, being more numerous than the Horned Owl. Various-sized flocks of Nighthawks were seen most of the summer, but some nested near here; the last Nighthawk was seen September 5, about its average departure date. A Red-shafted Flicker, very rare here, was seen September 20 and another October 3.

The Eastern Kingbird was very scarce all summer and was last seen August 23. Western Kingbirds began appearing September 8, usually one or two being about until September 18, when the last(3) were seen. The last Say's Phoebe was seen September 29, about the average time for it to leave. An Empidonax flycatcher, probably Traill's appeared September 3. A Western Wood Pewee was here September 4 to 20.

Horned Larks are especially numerous this year and are pretty well spread out over the pastures and fields; flocks of hundreds are in the millet fields. Rough-winged Swallows, always rare here, were last seen August 29, about their usual last date. Barn Swallows continued to be infrequent; one seen August 27, September 4 and 15; three September 26 were the last. A flock of 6-8 Pinon Jays passed September 18; years ago flocks of hundreds often came in the fall, but very few have been seen the last 14-15 years. A Mountain Chickadee, very rare here, was seen October 3 and a White-breasted Nuthatch, unusual, September 11.

Rock Wrens were seen October 1, but none since; their average last date is in mid-October. The Sage Thrasher was about the place all summer, since June 29; five seen September 8, some evidently young as at least one was begging for food; the last at the house was September 28, and one along the road to town, October 1. The first Robin of this fall was seen October 3, very large, dark grey, with faint rusty on breast. The first Mountain Bluebirds(9), appeared September 29 and small numbers are still present. Townsend's Solitaire(1) was seen September 12, 13 and 19 and October 3. Single Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a rare migrant, were seen September 18 and 20.

Loggerhead Shrikes remained all summer, three being the most seen at one time and the last one was noted September 30; for a time they were doing a very good job catching mice about the stacks. A flock of eight Common Starlings visited briefly September 15 and 27. The only Myrtle Warbler was seen September 28; more are expected as they often come quite late in the fall. The Pileolated Warbler appeared first

on August 7, then August 27(3), 31, September 2(3), 13(1) and 18, the last one. A flock of 6-8 House Sparrows appeared September 9, after being absent a month and there are a few about most of the time; there is not much food to attract them this year.

Western Meadowlarks are unusually numerous this year, in the pastures as well as the fields; they were heard first in full song September 7 and now sing commonly, being especially exuberant when it is damp and bubble over with a great variety of notes other than their usual song. Four Yellow-headed Blackbirds visited, August 29. The first Brewer's Blackbird was seen September 9, more 18th and 25th; this species drifts in and out in small numbers and some are still present. The Cowbird was about from August 11 until August 26(2), 27(3), 30(6) and the last two September 8(average departure date).

A Green-tailed Towhee, a rare migrant, visited September 6. Lark Buntings were here in large flocks until September 1, when they began dwindling until the last was noted, September 6. The last Lark Sparrows were seen August 23, 6 days earlier than in any other year and three weeks ahead of their average departure. A Pink-sided Oregon Junco was here September 20, a fairly early date. The last Brewer's Sparrow was seen September 9, an average daperture date. Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow(1) appeared September 17, another September 19 and a few are about at the present time. The first McCown's Longspurs, 2 or 3, were seen September 1 and again September 4; varying numbers are still present.

During the period covered by these notes, five trips were made to Fort Morgan, four being to town and return by the same route, while that of September 1 was over a different return road. As most of the birds were seen five miles or more from the home place, they have been kept separate.

| | Aug. 23 | Sept. 1 | Sept. 17 | Sept. 24 | Oct. 1 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (Unidentified) Falcon | | | 1 | | |
| Sparrow Hawk | 8 | 8 | 5 | 3 | |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | | 5 | | 5 | 2 |
| Mourning Dove | | | | | 1(in town) |
| Red-shafted Flicker | | | 1 | | |
| Eastern Kingbird | 1 | | | | |
| Western Kingbird | 50-75 | 3 | | | |
| Say's Phoebe | 8 | 3 | | 3 | |
| Horned Lark | many | many | many | many | many |
| Barn Swallow | | | 15-20 | | |
| American Magpie | 10 | 8 | | | 15-20 |
| Mockingbird | 3 | | | | |
| Sage Thrasher | | 1 | | 2 | 1 |
| Brown Thrasher | | 1 | | | |
| Loggerhead Shrike | | 8 | 5 | | |
| Starling | | | 3 | | |
| Western Meadowlark | 15 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-30 | 40-50 |
| Brewer's Blackbird | | | | | 10 |
| Lark Bunting | 75-100 (in small flocks) | 25-40 (flocks 5-10) | | | |
| Vesper Sparrow | | 8-10 | many | many | 4 |
| Shufeldt's Oregon Junco | | | | | 1 |
| Clay-colored Sparrow | 40-50 | 20-25 (scattered) | | many | 6 |
| White-crowned Sparrow | | | | | 15-20 |

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## SHOULD THE CHRISTMAS COUNT AREA BE CHANGED?

By John Chapin

There is a body of opinion which feels that the primary scientific value of the Christmas count is in measuring changes in bird populations. To do this accurately the same observers should cover the same areas the same number of hours in the same kind of weather each year. Unfortunately these conditions can rarely be met. The maintanance of the same count area is one of the factors which can be kept constant. Frequently, however, an area may change so much that ecologically it bears little resemblance to what it was in previous years and the area is just as different as if its boundaries had been changed.

This sort of change may be occurrung in the northern part of our present Christmas count area. The westward growth of Denver's suburbs is claiming one birding area after another, converting them into ornithological deserts. Probably the only good birding place in the northern part of the count area which is immune to this encroachment is Genesee Mountain Park.

One of the basic considerations in selecting a count area is that it include an optimum of good birding spots within a circle 15 miles in diameter. The present count area is a compromise between an area used in 1950 and the desire to include Genesee Mountain. At the time we decided upon this area I did not appreciate the potential of the river bottom ecology with its attendant thickets and marshes. The count area excludes what may well be the outstanding ornithological feature of this area, the Platte River.

If the count area were changed to include the Platte, what would be gained, kept, and lost?

lost: Genesee Mountain, Clear Creek at McIntyre Road, Sloan's Lake, and the Federal Center Pond.

retained: Mt. Morrison, Red Rocks, West Jewell Marsh, Estes Road Marsh, Bear Creek, Marston, Bowles, Patrick, etc. Lakes; Turkey and Little Turkey Creeks, Indian Hills, Tiny Town, and Ken Caryl Ranch.

gained: South Platte River from the Platte canyon to Littleton, Deer Creek, the shoulder between Phillipsburg and Tiny Town, an area south of Tiny Town, lower Plum Cr.

Changing the area would eliminate much of the sterile portion of our present area. It would actually afford more scrub and foothill area and much more river bottom area. Those who have participated in previous counts here can appreciate the relative ornithological density of the river bottom habitat.

It seems to me that the major points on both sides are: for keeping the present area:- We have a 3 year investment in this area and the Fish and Wildlife Service prefers that established areas be maintained. It has been productive. Many birders know the area well. It permits certain individuals living there to observe their feeders. For changing the area:- In the long run we want the best area possible and one which will change mimimally with time. It is better to establish this area now than at some future date. A large fraction of the good counts come from that portion of the present area which will be retained. Individuals watching feeders have contributed little to the total counts. Eliminated areas either are or will be duplicated habitatwise in the new area. The new area would contain larger amounts of those habitats which have been shown to be most productive ornithologically.

I propose that I lead a field trip Saturday, Nov. 20, which would include much of the proposed area and on Sunday, Nov. 21, another trip through that portion of the present area which would be lost. On the basis of those trips and other pertinent considerations we can decide at the November meeting whether or not to change the Christmas Count area this year.

## HOW'S YOUR O. Q.?*

By John Chapin

1. What is the only swallow with a "Swallow Tail"?
2. What bird walks under water?
3. What group of small hawks has rounded wings?
4. What common diving birds do not have webbed feet?
5. What medium-sized hawk soars with its wings above horizontal?
6. What bluebird does not have a reddish breast?
7. What common brown sparrow has white outer tail feathers?
8. What common brown sparrow has white spots on the tips of the tail feathers?
9. What large heron-like bird flies with its neck outstretched?
10. What duck carries its short spiky tail vertically?
11. What group of shorebirds habitually swims?
12. What warbler is usually found in marshes?
13. What brown-headed bird is a blackbird?
14. What small hawk hovers?
15. What white heron has "golden slippers"?
16. What large hawk hovers habitually?
17. What shore bird habitually teeters?
18. What swallow has a buffy rump?
19. What brown heron has black wingtips?
20. What small accipiter has a square tail?
21. What medium-sized falcon has black spots where the wings meet the body(underneath)?
22. What shorebird has black spots where the wings meet the body(underneath)?
23. What immature large gull has a sharply-defined terminal black tail band?
24. What small grebe has a white spot on the side of its head in winter?
25. What waxwing has red under-tail feathers?

*Ornithological Quotient. Answers next month.

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## COLORADO RECORDS OF THE CAROLINA WREN

My unintentionally anonymous note of last month on the Carolina Wren seen at Palmer Lake, August 7, 1954, brought the following information from Edward Hellstern, at Fort Morgan:

"The Carolina Wren at Palmer Lake is not the first (in Colorado). I observed one every day all winter, feeding at our kitchen window-sill, and you will find it on the long roll I left with the Bird Club years ago. I could hear its cheerful whistle - it seemed a block away - and seemed to answer my whistle in the same notes."

Audubon Field Notes for October, 1953, reports a Carolina Wren seen July 2, 1953, "in the foothills near Colorado Springs" by Mrs. H. J. Wagner.

The June, 1950, Audubon Field Notes states that the Carolina Wren wintered 1949-1950 at Halstead, Kansas, in the south-central part of the state, near the Arkansas River, "where it has not been previously recorded" (Ruth). The specimens at the Denver Museum of Natural History taken closest to Colorado are two collected in 1915 at Hamilton, Kansas, about 75 miles east of Halstead.

-----Donald M. Thatcher

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INDIGO BUNTING NESTING --- "The Auk" for July, 1954,(p. 330) contains an interesting note by one of our former members, A. Lang Baily, on the nesting of the Indigo Bunting in Colorado, with a photograph by A. M. Bailey. The nest described, which was found August 8, 1953, near Morrison, is the first recorded for Colorado.

## BIRDS OF THE SEASON
By D. M. Thatcher

The fall migration seems to be characterized by unusual numbers of mountain species in Denver and surrounding plains areas, particularly Mountain Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Audubon's Warbler and Western Tanager. The usual large flocks of Bronzed Grackles in Denver(Oct. 13 to 15 in 1953) have not been reported; neither has the Nighthawk migration. Reports of observations of large numbers of these and other migrating birds are especially welcome. Following are listed some unusual occurrences and late(summer residents) and early(winter residents) migration dates. Those having more significant dates to report, please send them in, to Donald M. Thatcher, 2916 Perry Street, Denver 12, Colorado. This data also is forwarded to the regional editors for Audubon Field Notes for the Great Basis, Central Rocky Mountain Region(west from the edge of the foothills) and for the Southern Great Plains Region. Significant observations are published in A.F.N. with the names of the observers.

Western Grebe - 1 10/14 Mud Lake, Berthoud(R.Glover); 1 10/17 City Park, Denver (D.Thatcher)
White Pelican - 2 10/14 Mud Lake,Berthoud(RG)
Sandhill Crane - 3 10/10 Barr Lake(J.Flavin,H.Kingery,DT)*; 3 10/17 Barr Lake (L.Licht,DT)
Black-bellied Plover - 4 10/10 Barr L.* 5 10/17 Barr L.(LL, DT)
Willet - 1 8/8 Barr L.*
Wilson's Phalarope - 2 10/10 Barr L.*
Yellow-bellied Cuckoo - 1 7/18 Sedalia*
Screech Owl - 1 9/26 Clear Creek at McIntyre Rd.(DT)
Nighthawk - 1 9/26 Lakewood(DT)
White-throated Swift - 10 10/3 Red Rocks Park(DT)
Blue Jay, Steller's Jay, Scrub Jay - one of each feeding together on corn at feeder, early October, Littleton(RJN)
Pinon Jay - 1 10/8 NW Denver(DT)
Mountain Chickadee - 1 10/10 Barr L.(DT)*; 1 10/16 Parker Rd.(JC)
Long-billed Marsh Wren - 1 or 2(Singing) 10/9 Clear Creek(DT)
Rock Wren - 1 10/2,3 Parker Rd.(SE of Denver)(JC); 1 10/9 Barr L.*
Sage Thrasher - 3 9/26 N.of Arvada(DT)
Am. Robin - large flocks, Denver 9/30, 10/1 feeding on Virginia Creeper berries. Few since then.(DT)
Mountain Bluebird - 18(2 flocks) 10/10 Barr L.*; none 10/17(LL,DT)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 1 singing June 19, City Park, Denver(R.Wheeler);2 10/10 Barr L.*
Townsend's Warbler - 6 9/26 CC(DT)
MacGillivray's Warbler - 1 10/3 Red Rocks(DT)
Western Tanager - 1 10/1 NW Denver(DT)
Blue Grosbeak - singing male, immature plumage 9/18 Sedalia*
Indigo Bunting - singing male, June and early July, Boulder(C.Crone)
Spotted Towhee - 18 scattered(unusually high count) Red Rocks Park(DT) 10/3
Oregon Junco - 2 10/2 Golden(J&MDouglass); 12 10/2 Genesee Mt. Park(DT); 1 10/9 Barr L.*; flock of 30 10/10 Barr L.*; 2 10/17 Fort Morgan (Mrs. C.W.Hanson)
Gray-headed Junco - 1 10/3 Red Rocks(DT)

* Asterisk indicates scheduled field trip.

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER * NOVEMBER 1954

October

26 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification - John Chapin
8 PM Regular Meeting - Mr. Kenard P. Baer of U.S. Fish and Wildlife ,Service, Game Management Section, will speak on the duck banding program. Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History. (Please use north (employees') entrance.)

November

7 (Sun.) 7:30 AM Field Trip - Genesee Mountain Park - Donald Thatcher, leader (GL5-7479) - meet Main Library, Civic Center. Transp. 50¢.

13 (Sat.) 10 AM Field Trip - Waterton and vicinity - Jim Humphrey, leader (GR7-3800) - meet Alameda Ave., ½ block west of Broadway. Transp. 50¢ - Bring lunch.

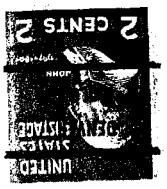
20-21 (Sat.-Sun.) Christmas Count scouting trips - John Chapin, leader (SK6-2200) Time & place to be announced. (See page 3, this paper)

23 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification
8 PM Regular Meeting
Denver Mus. Nat. Hist.

Week-ends, Nov. 27-28 to Dec 18-19, scouting trips for Christmas Count. Plans to be announced.

Please call leader if possible, if attending field trips. Transportation charge is suggested amount for those riding with others.

Mrs. Clark Wells
3340 W. 37th Ave.
Denver 11
Colo.




Colorado Bird Club
2916 Perry St.
Denver 12, Colo.

# COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 2 No. 3 November 1954


## WELDONA NOTES

by Howard Rollin

November 1, 1954-- The only duck seen about here this fall has been the Green-winged Teal, and it is rare; ten were seen Oct. 26.

Rough-legged Hawks were noted commonly starting Oct. 6 and are still here; some will no doubt spend the winter here, as usual. The large white-breasted hawks mentioned last month turned out to be the Ferruginous; it is usually rare, none to one or two being seen some years, whereas this year it is quite common; as none has been seen since Oct. 25(an early departure date), they may be gone for the winter. The Golden Eagle is common, 3 to 6 being usually present in about a mile in the canyons; they are usually followed by a retinue of Magpies hoping to dine on the leavings of the royal bird. The Marsh Hawk is still here, but less numerous than earlier in the season. Sparrow Hawks are still seen occasionally.

One Ring-necked Pheasant has strayed in recently; it is quite common a few miles south of here. The enormous flocks of Sandhill Cranes that passed last year were represented this year by two flocks totalling about 200, Oct. 5, and a flock of 23, Oct. 8. About 100 to 150 Franklin's Gulls were here Oct. 8, an unusually late date; none have been seen since then.

The Barn Owls apparently have drifted south, as none have been seen for about two weeks. I have no departure date for the Burrowing Owl. A Long-eared Owl was seen Oct. 21.

Red-shafted Flickers are seen occasionally, but remain rare; they perch on the perpendicular, cut banks in the canyons and are interested in the nest holes of the Rough-winged Swallows. Three Mountain Chickadees were seen in the canyons, Oct. 23. A Red-breasted Nuthatch, rare here, visited Oct. 22.

The last Rock Wren was seen Oct. 20, an average departure date; it was here two days after being absent three weeks. A Hermit Thrush(Audubon's) was seen Oct. 8. Another Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen Oct. 15 and a very rare Golden-crowned Kinglet today(Nov. 1).

Starlings are seen occasionally, but none stay about the place. The House Sparrow stays about in small numbers. No Yellow-headed Blackbirds(since Aug. 29) and no Crow-blackbirds(Purple Grackles) have been seen this fall. The Red-winged Blackbird drifts in in small flocks and singles; the largest number noted was 30.

Shufeldt's Oregon Juncos were first noted Oct. 10;they are now seen with one or two each of Montana and Pink-sided Oregons. The first Tree Sparrow was seen Oct. 6; it is common now. The White-crowned Sparrow(Gambel's) was quite common all fall and was singing sweetly about Oct. 16. The first Lapland Longspurs(Alaska) were noted Oct. 6; they are common now, and should be here all winter, with the Horned Larks.

Following are additional departure dates for a few species:

Mourning Dove, Oct. 7(average)
Mountain Bluebird, Oct. 17(average)
Townsend's Solitaire, Oct. 23(average)
Brewer's Blackbird, Oct. 15(early)
Vesper Sparrow, Oct. 8(average)
Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow Oct. 28(average)
McCown's Longspur, Oct 5(average)

Following are counts of birds observed during four trips to Fort Morgan, about a 38-mile round trip, both ways over the same route. Birds were recorded only once. Most of the Horned Larks were within a mile of home; Lapland Longspurs in the flocks of Larks could not be counted.

| | Oct. 8 | Oct. 11 | Oct. 15 | Oct. 29 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Green-winged Teal | 25 | 15 | | |
| Red-tailed Hawk | | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Rough-legged Hawk | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| Marsh Hawk | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Prairie Falcon | | | 1 | |
| Sparrow Hawk | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Franklin Gull | 50 | | | |
| Red-shafted Flicker | | | | 1 |
| Horned Larks & few Lapland longspurs | 25-30 | 20-25 | 25-30 | 150-200 |
| Magpie | 10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 25 |
| Mountain Chickadee(in town) | | | | 2-3 |
| Mountain Bluebirds(scattered) | 15-20 | 20 | | |
| Starling | | | | 1 |
| House Sparrow(mostly in town) | 10 | 15 | 15-20 | 100-150 |
| Meadow Lark | 25 | 10-15 | 25-30 | 15-20 |
| Red-winged Blackbird | | 15 | 10-15 | 40-50 |
| Vesper Sparrow | 2 | | | |
| Tree-Sparrow | | | | 25-30 |
| White-crowned Sparrow | 3 | 15-20 | 10 | 1 |

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Lewis's Woodpecker in New York -The New York Times of Nov. 7 and 8 contains accounts of a Lewis's Woodpecker in New York State, the first on record for that State and probably the first in the East since one was found in Rhode Island about 20 years ago. The bird, believed to be an immature one, appeared October 29 and stayed 10 days near Geneining, N. Y. where it was observed at a feeding station by a large number of people. While feeding, it drove off the Blue Jays, which usually control feeders. This species is seldom found farther east than western Kansas. (Information and clippings from Leonard Licht and John Flavin.)

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ANSWER'S TO LAST MONTH'S O. Q. TEST

1. Barn Swallow
2. Dipper
3. Accipiters
4. Grebes
5. Marsh Hawk
6. Mountain Bluebird
7. Vesper Sparrow
8. Lark Sparrow
9. Sandhill Crane
10. Ruddy Duck
11. Phalaropes
12. Yellowthroat
13. Cowbird
14. Sparrow Hawk
15. Snowy Egret
16. Rough-legged Hawk
17. Spotted Sandpiper
18. Cliff Swallow
19. American Bittern
20. Sharp-shinned Hawk
21. Prairie Falcon
22. Black-bellied Plover
23. Ring-billed Gull
24. Eared Grebe
25. Bohemian Waxwing

1954 MEMBERS COLORADO BIRD CLUB 1955
As of November 15, 1954

Aamodt, Mrs. O. H. - 1500 W. Alaska Place (19)..... SP-7-9048

Aarnes, Mr. Henry - 4543 Milwaukee Street ( )..... KE-4-9053

Abbott, Mrs. David - 361 Ash Street (20)..... DE-3-4159

Anderson, Mrs. Ona - Georgetown, Colorado

Arnold, Rev. Jay - Berthoud, Colorado

Bailey, Mr. Alfred M. (Life Member) 4340 Montview Blvd..... EA-2-8913
Denver Museum of Natural History..... EA-2-1808

Bonnema, Mr. & Mrs. Peter - 1368 So. Corona Street (10)..... PE-3-6755

Bowman, Mr. Donald E. - 1109 So. Washington Street (10)..... PE-3-6345

Byrne, Mrs. Helen - 726 So. York St.(9)..... SP-7-2951

Carlsen, Mr. Henry - 4727 Brighton Blvd. (16).....

Caswell, Miss Phyllis - 1336 So. Grant Street (10)..... PE-3-7451

Chambers, Mrs. Donald E. - Rte. 1 Box 290, Broomfield, Colorado..Broomfield - 24-J-4

Chapin, Mr. John L. - 2441 So. Dahlia Lane ( )..... SK-6-2200

Close, Mr. R. E. - Rte. 3 Box 490, Golden, Colorado

Crone, Miss Catherine - 1680 6th Street, Apt. 6, Boulder, Colorado..Hillcrest 2-4408

Crow, Mrs. A. H. - 3272 Stuart Street (12).....GL-5-4378

Cummins, Mr. Buryl - 2355 King Street (11).....GE-3-3787

DeMent, Mr. & Mrs. T. L. - 3653 Josephine Street (5).....AC-2-5003

Douglass, Mr. & Mrs. John - 21 Mines Park, Golden, Colorado..... Golden-1179-W

Durfee, Miss Bertha - 233 So. Ogden Street (9).....RA-2-6901

Edmiston, Miss Mary K. - 1355 St. Paul Street (6)..... EA-2-5233

Flavin, Mr. John W. Jr. - 1315 So. Holly Street (20)..... PL-5-1744

Force, Miss Jessie - 717 Humboldt Street (18).....MA-3-0531

Fortner, Mr. Clark - 1160 So. Glencoe Street (20)..... PL-5-1273

Friedrichs, Mr. Otto - Rte. 2 Box 165, Golden, Colorado

Galloway, Staff Sgt. Leo - P.O. Box 35, Lowry Air Force Base

Glover, Mr. Robert E. - 1936 So. Lincoln Street (10)..... PE-3-8757

Hansen, Mr. Charles F. - 701 So. Grant St.(9)..... RA-2-8736

Hansen, Mrs. C. W. - Box 67, Fort Morgan, Colorado

Hellstern, Mr. Edward (Life Member) Fort Morgan, Colorado

Herrick, Mrs. Beulah - 1440 Josephine Street (6)..... FR-7-1414

Humphrey, Mr. James - 3010 Lowell Blvd. (11)..... GR-7-3800

Humphrey, Mrs. Ruth - 3495 W. 30th Avenue (11)..... GR-7-3800

Hunt, Mrs. Clyde T. - 121 W. 1st Avenue, Apt. 4 (19)..... SH-4-0924

Hurlbutt, Miss Catherine - 1910 So. Marion Street (10)..... SP-7-9362

Jetensky, Mr. James - 105 W. Irvington Place (9)..... RA-2-6987

Juergens, Mr. David - 1928 E. 17th Avenue (6)..... FL-5-7468

Judson, Mr. Arch - 729 E. 14th Avenue (3)..... MA-3-6302

Kirkeby, Miss Alma - 1060 Gaylord Street (6)..... FL-5-4946

Kleinschnitz, Mr. & Mrs. Ferd - 1630 So. Milwaukee Street (10)..... RA-2-9041

Lederer, Mrs. Beth - 525 College Avenue, Boulder, Colorado

Licht, Mr. E. L. - 2329 Glencoe Street (7)..... DE-3-2837

Link, Mr. & Mrs. Wendell A. - 4400 So. Broadway ( )..... SU-1-0140

Looms, Mrs. Laura - 771 Franklin Street (18)..... FR-7-1445

Marx, Miss Katherine - 800 So. Emerson Street (9)..... PE-3-4186

Marvin, Mrs. Anna - 339 [illegible] Bannock Street ( )

Marsh, Mr. Thompson G. - 199 Ash Street (20)..... FR-7-5380

Marye, Mrs. J. N. - 1810 Albion Street (20)..... DE-3-2583

Massonneau, Major & Mrs. Robert - Fitzsimons Army Hospital, Box 6189..... EM-6-1835

Matthews, Mrs. Vera - 735 College Avenue, Boulder, Colorado

McRae, Miss Phyllis - 1468 Detroit Street ( )..... DE-3-6690

Miller, Miss Margaret - 4425 Federal Blvd. Apt 204 (11)..... GE-3-0454

Morrison, Miss Sadie - 1265 Mariposa Street (4)..... MA-3-0840

Niedrach, Mr. Robert J.(Life Member) Box 116 A, Rte. 3, Littleton..... SU-1-3027

Olson, Mr. Ray - 8651 W. 38th Avenue, Wheatridge, Colorado..... HA-4-6823

Pfretzschner, Mr. B. R.-2700 Adams Street (5)..... DE-3-3234

Phelan, Miss Boss - 914 E. 13th Avenue ( )

Pritchett, Miss Margaret - 2735 Federal Blvd. (11)..... GL-5-2863

Ranson, Miss Maud B. - Portland (7) Oregon, Box 557

Reifschneider, Mrs. Jacob - P. O. Box 773, Yucaipa, California

Rollin, Mr. Howard (Life Member) Rte. 1, Weldona, Colorado

Ryder, Mr. Ronald - 1471 Race Street ( )..... DE-3-5081

Rosenbaum, Mrs. Virgil C. - 2825 W. 29th Avenue (11)..... GL-5-7600

Scudder, Mrs. Ona - Georgetown, Colorado

Smith, Mr. Horace G.(Dad) (Life Member) - 1457 St. Paul Street (6)

Stockwell, Miss Ida - 1221 Washington Street, Apt. 304

Storrie, Miss Robina - 443 So. Corona Street (9)..... PE-3-0809

Tappolet, Mr. W. A. - 1673 Sherman Street (3)..... AC-2-0791

Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph E. - 4008 Quitman Street (12)..... [illegible]

Thatcher, Mr. & Mrs. Donald M. - 2916 Perry Street (12)..... GL-5-7479

Tyler, Mr. & Mrs. Harry L. - 1600 Teller Street, Lakewood, Colorado..... BE-3-2033

Voris, Mrs. C. D. - 1085 Olive Street (20)..... EA-2-7256

Wangnild, Miss Lillian - 1062 So. Elizabeth Street (9)..... SH-4-1622

Webster, Mr. Harold M. Jr.- 7810 W. 46th Avenue, Wheatridge, Colorado..... HA-4-1945

Wheeler, Miss Ruth - 3340 W. 37th Avenue (11)..... GL-5-3924

Whittier, Mr. A. Gerald - 2559 Chase Street (14)..... BE-3-9496

Winters, Miss Eileen - 1163 Ogden Street (18)..... AL-5-2513

Wlassak, Mr. Otto - 662 Raleigh Street ( )..... AC-2-7329

Woodward, Mrs. Ruth H.- 5009 Elm Court (11)..... GR-7-4362

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## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

This year the Club plans to participate in the 55th Christmas Count conducted by the National Audubon Society, with counts in two circular areas 15 miles in diameter. One area, the "Denver" or "low-altitude" will include plains and foothills country between the elevations of approximately 5300 and 8000 feet. The other, the "Idaho Springs" or "high-altitude" count, includes higher mountains between 7500 and 14,000 feet elevations.

Because of recent and impending destruction of some of the good birding territory in the northern part of the Denver area, and in order to include considerable river bottom land with a high birding potential, the center of the Denver area is being moved south about seven miles from its location of the past three years. This move will exclude Genesee Mountain, Clear Creek and Sloan's Lake, but will gain several miles of the South Platte River, Deer Creek, and a large area south of Tiny Town. The area has been divided tentatively into nine parts, each to be covered by a different group.

The Idaho Springs area is that which was covered the past three years, including Idaho Springs, St. Mary's Glacier, Berthoud Pass, Georgetown, Silver Plume and Echo Lake.

As the rules require that counts be made between December 25 and January 2, the Denver Count is planned for Sunday, December 26 and the Idaho Springs Count for Saturday, January 1, with the possibility of postponing the latter one day for bad weather. The weekends from November 27 to December 19 are to be used for scouting the lower area, especially to locate and "stake out" unusual birds for the count day.

All members and friends are urged to participate in one or both Counts. Those who are interested should call John Chapin(SK-6-2200) or Donald Thatcher(GL-5-7479) for assignment to parties and for information on scouting trips. Any who cannot take part in the official Counts are invited to join any of the preliminary scouting trips.

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## BIRDS OF THE MONTH

Sight records of two extremely rare species are reported by John and Margaret Douglass. Two Red-throated Loons were seen on Bowles Lake Nov. 14. They were seen well and the slender, upturned bill and speckled back, their diagnostic characters, were readily apparent. Bergtold(Birds of Colorado - 1928) lists this bird as a straggler, with only one record for Colorado(not near Denver). The other species, seen Nov. 11, a few miles south of Longmont, is believed to be a Gyrfalcon, "a large, white-breasted hawk with pointed wings and somewhat reddish brown back", but this description might fit the Prairie Falcon. The bird left its perch on a roadside pole before it could be observed closely. There appear to be no records of the Gyrfalcon in Colorado.

Following are listed some migration dates and unusual occurrences.
(* asterisk indicates scheduled field trip.)

Common Loon - 4 10/24 Marston Lake*; 1 11/18 City Park Duck Pond(D.Thatcher)
White Pelican - 2 10/24 Marston Lake*
Whistling Swan - 1 immature 11/14 Bowles Lake(J.& M. Douglass)
Snow Goose - 1 10/24 Marston Lake with flock of 41 Canada Geese*
Wood Duck - 1 male 11/3,4 Sloan's Lake(DT); 1 male 11/14 Bowles L.(JD,MD)
Bufflehead - 11 10/28 SE Denver(Wellshire Golf Course)(L&R Galloway)
Hooded Merganser - 1 male 11/14 Bowles Lake(JD&MD)
Sandhill Crane - 21 10/24 Marston Lake*
Franklin's Gull - 1 11/17 Downtown Denver(last record)(DT)
Sabine's Gull - 1 immature 9/27 caught at Carbondale(Garfield Co.) & 1 adult seen 10/5 or 6, Moffat Co. by R. Denny(R.Ryder)
Blue Jay - 1 about 10/28 Georgetown(O. Scudder)
Dipper - 1 11/14 Waterton(M.Crow, R.Wheeler)
Canyon Wren - 1 11/10 to 11/18 Georgetown(unusual so late at 8500 feet elevation) (O.S. & O.Anderson)
American Robin - 2 11/3 NW Denver(last)(DT)
Eastern Bluebird - 1 male 10/24 near Fed. Correction Inst.*
Cedar Waxwing - 6 11/5 Georgetown(O.S.)
Audubon's Warbler - 1 10/25, 29 NW Denver(DT); 11/11 Washington Pk.(LG&RG)
Black-throated Blue Warbler - 1 male 11/5 near Central City(Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Sherrard of Hanover, New Hampshire)
Evening Grosbeak - 1 11/15 Georgetown(OS); 3 11/17 Genesee Mt. Pk.*
Black Rosy Finch - 11/5 Georgetown(OS)1.
White-winged Crossbill - 1 female near Crook(Logan Co.)(RR); 6 11/11 Washington Park, Denver(LG,RG)
White-winged Junco - 3 10/31 G.M.Pk.(DT); 1 11/6 Red Rocks Park(DT)
White-throated Sparrow - 1 11/14 near foothills W. of Littleton(MD)

---D. M. Thatcher

The Bird Club is reminded of the WINTER LECTURE PROGRAM at Phipps Auditorium, Denver Museum of Natural History. The film lectures are given Sundays at 2:30 and 4:30 PM and Mondays at 6:30 and 8:30 PM. All balcony seats and those main floor seats which are unclaimed five minutes before curtain time are free to the public. Following is the schedule for the next six weeks:

Nov. 28-29 - Autumn Across America, by Stan Midgley
Dec. 5-6 - Northern and Western Australia, by Alfred M. Bailey
Dec. 12-13 - Bavaria, by Nicol Smith
Jan. 2-3 - Bonaventure Diary, by Robert C. Hermes

There is also the "Nature on the Screen" series, free to the public, at 8 PM, as follows:

Dec. 7 (Tues.) - Northern and Western Australia, by Alfred M. Bailey
Jan. 4 (Tues.) - The Grass Forest, by Robert C. Hermes.

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Robert Glover, on temporary detail at Washington, D. C., sends an account of a trip to Monument Knob, in Maryland, with the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia, to observe the hawk migration. During six and one-half hours the following hawks were counted, taking advantage of a strong north-west wind: Goshawk, 1; Sharp-shin, 3; Cooper's, 1; Red-tailed, 231; Red-shouldered, 8; Marsh, 7; also 1 Raven and about 100 Turkey Vultures.

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CORRECTIONS:- October Issue

Page 1 - 4th paragraph, line 4(Nighthawks) read "but none nested near here."
Page 2 - paragraph 1, line 2(Meadowlark) read "in fall song"
- paragraph 1, line 6(Cowbird) read "was absent".
Page 5 - 7th species in list - change to "yellow-billed cuckoo"
13th species in list - change "JC" to "John Chapin."

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## CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1954

November
23 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification - John Chapin
8 PM Regular Meeting - talk with slides on Birds of Australia, by Mr. and Mrs. John N. Hough, of Boulder
Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History
(Please use north (employees') entrance)

27-28 Saturdays and Sundays
December Scouting trips for Christmas Count (See pages 5 and 6)
4-5 Meet at Alameda Ave. ½ block west of Broadway
11-12 For times and other information, call John Chapin (SK6-2200)
18-19 or Donald Thatcher (GL5-7479)

26 (Sun.) Denver Christmas Count.
Call J. Chapin or D. Thatcher for details.

December regular meeting to be replaced by meeting after Count, details to be announced later.

January, 1955
1 (Sat.) Idaho Springs Christmas Count
Call J. Chapin or D. Thatcher for details.

# COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 2 No. 4 December 1954

## FIFTY-FIFTH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

As stated last month, the Club plans to participate in the 55th Christmas Count in two areas, one, near Denver, in the plains and lower foot-hills, Sunday, December 26, and the other, in the higher mountains above Idaho Springs, Saturday, January 1. The location of the Denver or "low-altitude" count is being moved southward this year about seven miles, to exclude considerable "non-productive" city or developed territory and to include about twelve miles of the South Platte River, which should provide excellent birding.

The Christmas Count was originated in 1900 at the suggestion of Frank M. Chapman, as a substitute for the then popular "Christmas hunt", whose object was the useless killing of as many birds as possible. Since 1900, when 27 persons participated, the Count has increased to 521 published reports, with 7384 observers, in 1953, who spent nearly 19,000 party-hours in the field and covered nearly 14,000 party-miles on foot. Results of the Count are published annually by the National Audubon Society, in cooperation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in the April issue of "Audubon Field Notes".

In order to achieve some degree of uniformity and to add to the scientific value of the Count, a number of rules were evolved by the editors of "Bird Lore", in which the earlier counts were published, and of "Audubon Field Notes". These are, briefly: the count must be made within one calendar day, in the period prescribed (Dec. 25 to Jan. 2, this year); each local count should include at least seven hours of observation (not necessarily by each participant); and the area covered must be included within a circle not exceeding 15 miles in diameter.

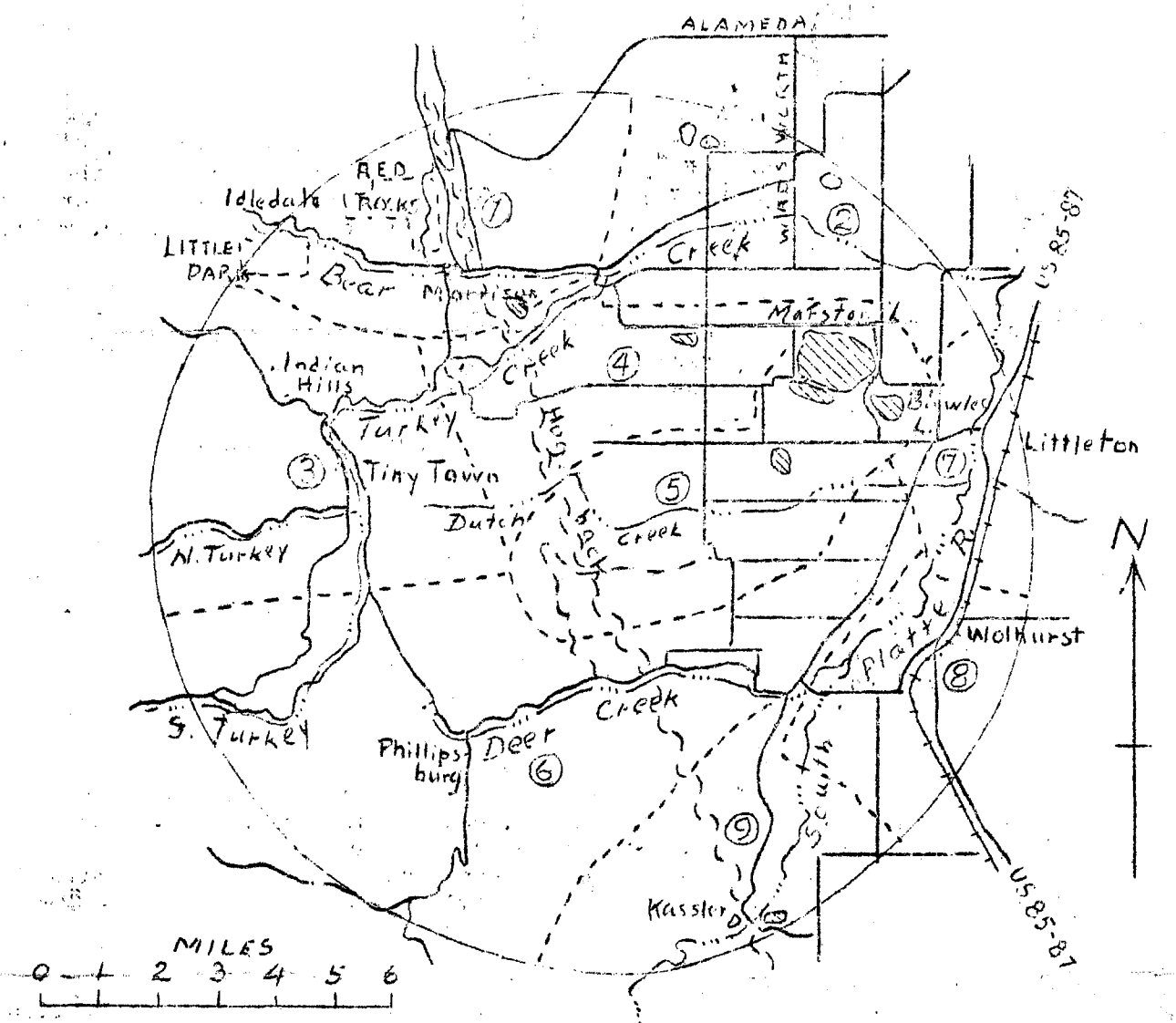
To make the reports as complete and accurate as possible, each party should supply the following information to the compiler: (a) description of habitats covered, as irrigated fields, wooded stream bottom, coniferous forest, etc.; (b) party-hours spent in each habitat; (c) party-miles covered by car and on foot or otherwise. Car mileage between home and the party's count area and other travel without observation should not be included. If a party divides into smaller parties to go essentially different ways, the additional hours and miles should be reported.

In order to avoid duplication, or perhaps the omission of individual birds not seen by more than one party, the exact time of observation and the direction of travel of large birds, such as hawks and eagles, should be recorded for comparison with other parties. Also, any observations made within the territory assigned to another party should be recorded separately as to time and place, and added to the Count report if not seen by the party working that territory.

Particular attention should be given any birds outregularly found in winter in the Count area. Those unfamiliar with the status of the local species should remember that insectivorous species such as warblers, vireos, flycatchers and swallows should not be expected (one or two warblers and Say's Phoebe might occur); likewise, some wrens and several of the sparrows are extremely unlikely to be found. All such birds should be observed very cerefully by as many people as possible and particular note taken of actions, voice and habitat.

The following quotation by the editor of the 54th Count for "Audubon Field Notes" explains the editors' attitude relative to the accuracy of the Christmas Count: "The Christmas Bird Count is rightfully regarded as a sport by some and quite rightfully by others as a contribution to knowledge. The editors of "Audubon Field Notes" have long been happy to recognize this dual function that the Count has enjoyed. We do,

Map for Low-altitude Christmas Count

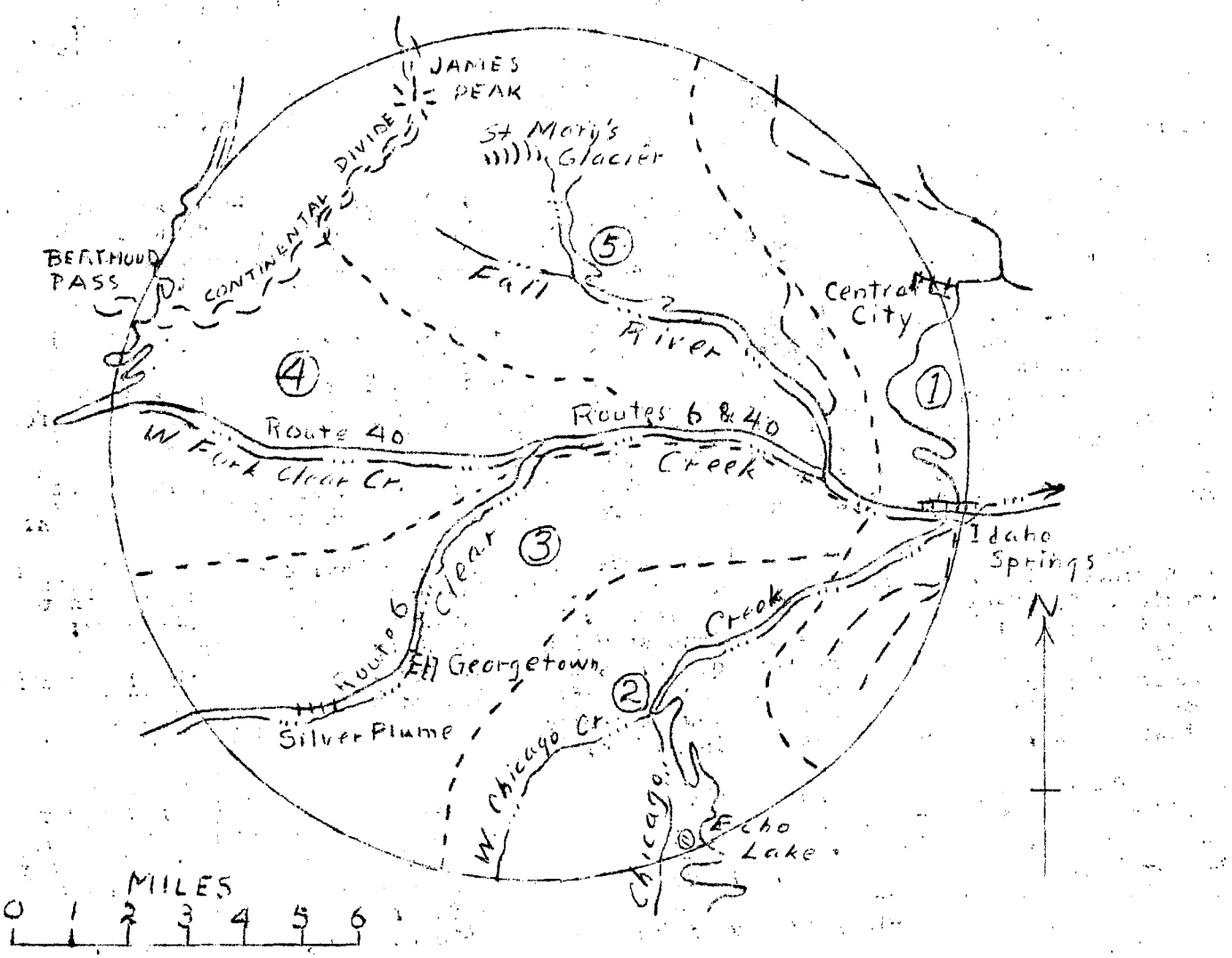



| Section | Leaders | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Donald Thatcher | 5 | John Flavin, Harold Webster |
| 2 | Sadie Morrison, Phyllis Caswell | 6 | John Chapin, Mr. & Mrs. Foerster |
| 3 | John & Margaret Douglass | 7 | Mr. & Mrs. DeMent |
| 4 | Ruth Wheeler | 8 | Thompson Marsh |
| | | 9 | Floyd Kirkpatrick, Jim Humphrey |

however, regard it a high responsibility to bestow on each report a generous amount of scientific skepticism, to question the compilers for details about unusual records, and to regard extreme rarities as doubtful until proven otherwise. This does not imply that all men are liars until proven honest; it simply expresses a conservative approach in asking for facts to permit an independent decision on the acceptibility of a report as a scientific fact."

Our Counts for the last three years reported: for Denver, 67, 86 and 85 species; for Idaho Springs, 15, 29 and 34 species. Last year, the former had the highest count in the country for American Magpie (711) and Pygmy Nuthatch (185) and the latter had highest count for Clark's Nutcracker (45), Townsend's Solitaire(64) and Brown-capped

Map for High-altitude Christmas Count

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Rosy Finch (2).

The accompanying maps show the limits and major features of the two Count areas, their sub-division for party coverage and the probable leaders for the low-altitude count. Several other persons have announced their intention to participate and all other members or friends are urged to take part. Anyone interested should call John Chapin (SK6-2200) or Donald Thatcher (GL5-7479) for assignment to the party of his choice and for particulars as to meeting time and place, etc.

After the Denver Count, Dec. 26, all members and friends, whether on the Count or not, are invited to the Chapins' for the Count report and refreshments, at dusk. This meeting will replace the regular Tues. night meeting for December. Contributions of cookies or the like toward dessert are welcome. To reach the Chapin place, take Colorado Blvd. to Iliff St., go east on Iliff to end (South Dahlia), turn right, then take first right turn, South Dahlia Lane, and follow loop to left about two-thirds around to the most southeasterly house on the loop (no. 2441).

## WELDONA NOTES

by Howard Rollin

Birds are very scarce about here today(Dec. 2) after the 4½ inches of snow, except the Horned Larks which are very numerous in the fields and pastures. The Lapland Longspur(Alaska) is mixed in with the Larks and it is hard to determine just how many there are, but there are more this year than there have been for several years. During a three-mile horseback ride yesterday, 200 or 300 Horned Larks were noted and perhaps 25 Longspurs were seen or heard.

Ducks of all kinds have been very rare all fall, only the Green-winged Teal having been seen, Oct. 26. However, yesterday, at least 1000 Mallards were noted flying about to the south of here in one flock and a smaller flock of a hundred or so was noted later. A Short-eared Owl, very rare here, also was seen yesterday.

On Nov. 23, 10 large "ocean" birds were noted. They were, I believe, a species of very large Gull(such as the Great Black-backed) in the immature plumage, as all were a brownish color. They passed close to the house but before I could get the glasses and get outside they were too far away to identify with certainty, except for the color and the large size. Their wing spread must have been at least 60 inches and had the typical wing motion of large gulls. Other birds of the Ocean have been seen at various times and it would be most interesting to know with certainty just what species they are. These were much larger than the Western or California Gulls.

The Red-shafted Flicker was still about in the canyons Nov. 4 but none have been seen since. One Rock Wren was still here Nov. 13, making that a late date for that species. The Gray Shrike was first seen Nov. 7 and is about at the present time. Starlings come in occasionally but none stay long. House Sparrows are fewer than earlier in the season and are very quiet, as the shrike is very fond of them. Western Meadowlarks are here in reduced numbers in various places; there are three or four about the buildings at present. Red-winged Blackbirds are seen occasionally but do not stay long, and are usually few in number.

A Common Redpoll was here briefly Nov. 6; it is a very rare bird here. American Goldfinches, which were absent for so long after being about until the middle of the summer, showed up again Nov. 11, and are seen occasionally to the present. The first White-winged Junco was seen Nov. 5; but none since. The only Junco around at this time is the Pink-sided Oregon which has been here all fall. The Shufeldt's is not here at this time. American Tree Sparrows are about the buildings at all times, in numbers from 5 to 30.

The following birds were seen on two trips to Fort Morgan:

| | Nov. 12 | Nov. 22 |
|---|---|---|
| Rough-legged Hawk | 5 | 8 |
| Marsh Hawk | 1 | 1 |
| Pheasant | 8 | - |
| Horned Lark | 150-200 | 250-300 |
| Magpie | 15 | 25 |
| Starling | none | 30 |
| House Sparrow | 25-30 | 15-20 |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 50-75 | 5 |
| Western Meadowlark | 15 | 1 |
| Tree Sparrow | 8-10 | 6-8 |
| Lapland Longspur(Alaska) | 2 | 2 |

Other Lapland Longspurs were mixed in with the Horned Larks, but the above actually were seen.

## BIRDS OF THE MONTH

Bird activity seems to have been low the past month, as compared with other years, perhaps in some way due to the drought and mild weather. Scouting trips for the Christmas Count have turned up very few unusual winter birds.

We regret having to correct the record of the Red-throated Loons reported seen November 14 on Bowles Lake. Two birds, most probably the same individuals, were studied carefully with a telescope November 20 and were determined to be Common Loons.

Following are some observations, mostly of late migrants:

Pied-billed Grebe - 1 11/20, 25 Fort Logan pond (D. Thatcher)
Double-crested Cormorant - 1 11/20 Johnson Lake (4 mi. W of Littleton) (J. Chapin, J. Flavin, D.T.)
Great Blue Heron - 10 11/20 Johnson Lake (JC, JF, DT)
Whistling Swan - 3 immatures 12/5 Bowles Lake (Mr. & Mrs. Foerster, JC, DT)
Snow Goose - 3 several days prior to 11/19, Ish Lake, Berthoud (J. Arnold)*
Bufflehead - 1 male 12/5 Marston Lake (Foersters, JC, DT)
Mourning Dove - 10 or 12 11/27 Berkeley Park, golf course, Denver (DT)
Yellow-shafted Flicker (or Red-shafted - Yellow-shafted hybrid ?) - 1 10/14 Parker Road, SE of Denver; 1 about 11/4 SE Denver (JC)*
Common Bushtit - several 12/4 Turkey Creek, S of Morrison (J. & M. Douglass)
Gray Shrike - 1 12/12 near Eastlake (L. & R. Galloway)
Brewer's Blackbird - 30 12/5 n. Littleton (Foersters, JC, DT); 1 12/12 n. Eastlake (LG, RG)
Green-tailed Towhee - 1 11/24 Federal Center (DT)
Harris's Sparrow - 1 at feeder several days previous to 11/18 Georgetown * (O. Anderson)

* Unintentionally omitted last month.

----D. M. Thatcher

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The Bird Club has received its annual gift from Howard Rollin, another of his excellent paintings, this one of the Baltimore Oriole. Many thanks!

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CORRECTIONS:-
October, page 2. Under Sept. 17, at bottom, add 10-15 Clay-colored Sparrows.
November, page 7. Add date, October 30, 1954, to Mr. Glover's report.

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## HOW'S YOUR O. Q.?

by John Chapin

1. What female (or immature male) merganser has a sharply-defined color division on its neck?
2. What bird says "keek" when a stone is thrown into a marsh in the fall?
3. What shore-bird behaves like a sewing machine when feeding?
4. What common woodpecker has a very small bill for the size of its head?
5. What thrush has a reddish-brown tail and olive-brown back?
6. What bird makes a "pile-driving"noise in a marsh?
7. What loon has an upturned bill?
8. What shore-bird calls "Weee-o-wee"?
9. What mountain bird says "Hic-three beers"?
10. What large passerine bird flies like a hawk?
11. What immature shrike is brownish?
12. What large songbird habitually repeats twice each syllable of its song?
13. What one usually repeats three or more times?
14. What warbler habitually walks on the ground?
15. What large bird calls a loud "Waak" at night?

## CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 1954 - JANUARY 1955

December

26 (Sun.) all day Denver Christmas Count. Call John Chapin (SK6-2200) or Donald Thatcher (GL5-7479) for time and place.
Club meeting at Chapins', 2441 South Dahlia Lane at dusk.
See bottom page 3.

28 (Tues.) NO MEETING

January

1 (Sat.) Idaho Springs Christmas Count. Call J. Chapin or D. Thatcher for details.

15 (Sat.) 10 AM Field trip - Hughes Ranch. Sadie Morrison, leader (MA3-0840)
Meet Speer blvd. & Downing. Bring lunch. Transportation 50¢

25 (Tues.) 7 PM Bird Identification - John Chapin
8 PM Regular Meeting - "The Wild Turkey in Colorado"
by Mr. M. L. Burget
Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History

30 (Sun.) 7:30 AM Field trip - Upper Cherry Creek. John Chapin, leader (SK6-2200)
Meet Main Library, Civic Center. Bring lunch. Transp. 50¢.